

SENATOR BARACK OBAMA

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CORRESPONDENCES
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT RELEASE**

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Barack Obama Department of Defense Correspondences

117 pages of correspondences between Senator Barack Obama and the Department of Defense, dating from March 3, 2005 to February 8, 2008. These documents were released in October 2010 by the Department of Defense, after a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request.

Topics of the letters include:

Deployment of Illinois National Guard units.

Request for information concerning the assigning of casualty specialists to the next of kin of soldiers killed in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Questions about National Guard members being exposed to toxic substances while deployed to Mississippi and Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina.

The impact of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process on Illinois military installations.

The use of Blackwater private security personnel in Iraq.

Concern over reports of civilian casualties arising from the U.S. military's use of white phosphorus in Iraq.

Concern that Department of Defense's American Forces Network (AFN) had a lack of political balance in its broadcast of talk radio programming. The letter expressed that, "AFN Radio carries the shows of a wide range of conservatives, including Rush Limbaugh, Dr. Laura Schlesinger, and James Dobson, to the near total exclusion of progressive talk radio hosts."

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Source material from Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), National Security Agency (NSA), Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), Secret Service, National Security Council, Department of Defense, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Department of Justice, National Archive Records and Administration, and Presidential Libraries.

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SECTION 1

LETTERS FROM BARACK OBAMA TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 3, 2005

Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I know you have been hearing from community leaders across the country and from my congressional colleagues about how the campaign against terror has stretched the resources of our military and is affecting our troops and their families in ways not previously anticipated. I appreciate that you and your advisors are continually assessing these concerns, and, as a member of the Senate Foreign Relations and Veterans Affairs Committees, I look forward to participating in that evaluation process.

You should be aware that not a day goes by that I do not receive a letter, a phone call or an e-mail from someone in my state asking about the status of their loved ones who have been called to active duty. Over the last several weeks, a number of friends and family members of Illinois National Guard units, two of which are currently at Fort Polk, Louisiana, have contacted me to express their concern that our state's units are receiving conflicting signals about the length and location of their current deployment.

I am extremely concerned that despite the great sacrifices being made by these great Americans and their families, this Administration is still not giving the troops and their families the kinds of straight answers that will permit them to have some certainty about their deployments. Thus, I am writing you today to ask for specific information about the nature of the Illinois' 131st and 178th National Guard units' deployment, and to express my concern and frustration about the Pentagon's treatment of our National Guard and Reserve forces.

Guard members and Reservists are facing a period of unprecedented mobilization. As the military is stretched thin by duties in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere, they are facing longer and less predictable mobilizations. And we have heard -- including from very senior leadership in the Reserve and Guard structures -- that the Guard and Reserve are receiving substandard equipment and insufficient training to meet the challenges they confront on these deployments.

Moreover, when these troops are called to active duty, their families often face severe financial hardship as well as increased child care and health care costs. This problem is exacerbated by the uncertain lengths of deployment. Families cannot plan for their financial future without knowing when a Guard member or Reservist can return home and return to work.

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

Honorable Donald Rumsfeld

March 3, 2005

Page Two

Our citizen-soldiers deserve better. They risk their lives for our safety. Their families risk financial ruin. The least we can do is let them know where they will be serving and when they are returning home.

I look forward to receiving detailed information about the Pentagon's plans for the Illinois' 131st and 178th National Guard units as well as an update of what the Pentagon is doing to improve long-term planning for the assignment of the Guard, the Reserve and members of the full-time military. While I understand the need to maintain sufficient troop strength in Iraq, I also believe our leaders need to be more honest about what will be expected of our National Guard and Reservists, as well as our Active Duty soldiers. I would like to let my constituents know that in this difficult time, our leaders have their interests at heart and recognize their deepest concerns.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Barack Obama
United States Senator

CCs: The Honorable Francis J. Harvey
Secretary of the Army

Lieutenant General H. Steven Blum
Chief, National Guard Bureau

Brigadier General Randal E. Thomas
Adjutant General, Illinois National Guard

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

2005 MAR 21 PM 2:27

March 15, 2005

Hon. Powell A. Moore
Assistant Secretary of Defense
For Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Moore,

My constituent, (b)(6), contacted my office concerning an issue with the Department of the Army. Enclosed you will find information surrounding his case.

Your assistance in addressing this matter is greatly appreciated. David LeBreton, one of my staff members, is in contact with (b)(6) and will apprise him of your findings. If you have any questions surrounding this matter or require further information, please contact David at (312) 886-0826.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Barack Obama
United States Senator

230 S. Dearborn St.
Suite 3900
Chicago, Illinois 60604
(312) 886-3506

08D 05359-05

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

OFFICE OF THE CLERK
MAR 22 AM 9:13

March 21, 2005

Hon. Powell A. Moore
Assistant Secretary of Defense
For Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Moore:

My constituent, (b)(6) contacted my office concerning an issue with the Department of Defense. Enclosed you will find information surrounding my constituent's case.

Your assistance in addressing this matter is greatly appreciated. David LeBreton, one of my staff members, is in contact with my constituent and will apprise (b)(6) of your findings. If you have any questions surrounding this matter or require further information, please contact David at (312) 886-0826.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Barack Obama
United States Senator

230 S. Dearborn St.
Suite 3900
Chicago, Illinois 60604
(312) 886-3506

OSD 05525-05

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 25, 2005

Hon. Powell A. Moore
Assistant Secretary of Defense
for Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Moore,

My constituent, (b)(6) contacted my office concerning an issue with the Department of Defense. Enclosed you will find information surrounding his case.

Your assistance in addressing this matter is greatly appreciated. David LeBreton, one of my staff members, is in contact with (b)(6) and will apprise him of your findings. If you have any questions surrounding this matter or require further information, please contact David at (312) 886-0826.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Barack Obama
United States Senator

230 S. Dearborn St.
Suite 3900
Chicago, Illinois 60604
(312) 886-3506

OSD 05862-05

BO-DLB

BARACK OBAMA
ILLINOIS

2005 MAY 10 PM 3:04

COMMITTEES:
ENVIRONMENT AND
PUBLIC WORKS
FOREIGN RELATIONS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 4, 2005

Hon. Powell A. Moore
Assistant Secretary of Defense
For Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Moore:

My constituent, (b)(6) contacted my office concerning an issue with the Department of Defense. Enclosed you will find information surrounding his case.

Your assistance in addressing this matter is greatly appreciated. David LeBreton, one of my staff members, is in contact with (b)(6) and will apprise him of your findings. If you have any questions surrounding this matter or require further information, please contact David at (312) 886-0826.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Barack Obama
United States Senator230 S. Dearborn St.
Suite 3900
Chicago, Illinois 60604
(312) 886-3506

BO/dlb

OSD 08928-05

BARACK OBAMA
ILLINOIS

COMMITTEES:
ENVIRONMENT AND
PUBLIC WORKS
FOREIGN RELATIONS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

2005 MAY 17 10:12 AM

May 18, 2005

Hon. Powell A. Moore
Assistant Secretary of Defense
For Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Moore:

My constituent, (b)(6) contacted my office concerning an issue with the Department of Defense. Enclosed you will find information surrounding his case.

Your assistance in addressing this matter is greatly appreciated. David LeBreton, one of my staff members, is in contact with (b)(6) and will apprise him of your findings. If you have any questions surrounding this matter or require further information, please contact David at (312) 886-0826.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Barack Obama
United States Senator

230 S. Dearborn St.
Suite 3900
Chicago, Illinois 60604
(312) 886-3506

BO/dlb

OSD 09517-05

BARACK OBAMA
ILLINOISCOMMITTEES:
ENVIRONMENT AND
PUBLIC WORKS
FOREIGN RELATIONS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 18, 2005

Hon. Powell A. Moore
Assistant Secretary of Defense
For Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Moore:

My constituent, (b)(6) contacted my office concerning an issue with the Department of Defense. Enclosed you will find information surrounding his case.

Your assistance in addressing this matter is greatly appreciated. David LeBreton, one of my staff members, is in contact with (b)(6) and will apprise him of your findings. If you have any questions surrounding this matter or require further information, please contact David at (312) 886-0826.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Barack Obama
United States Senator230 S. Dearborn St.
Suite 3900
Chicago, Illinois 60604
(312) 886-3506

BO/dlb

OSD 09520-05

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

May 27, 2005

2005 MAY 27 11 17

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-4000

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

We are deeply concerned that the Pentagon has failed to release the installation-specific data that it used to prepare its recommendations under the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (as amended). The Department has proposed a list of military bases to close or realign, and has forwarded that list to the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission, Congress, and the Comptroller General for their review. Congress designed this process to be open and transparent. To that end, section 2903 (c) (4) of that Act provides that,

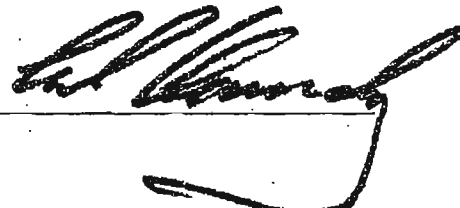
"In addition to making ALL information used by the Secretary to prepare the recommendations under this subsection available to Congress (including any committee or member of Congress), the Secretary shall also make such information available to the Commission and the Comptroller General of the United States." (emphasis added)

While the Department has released both the overall report and recommendations, and the service-specific analysis and recommendations, it has not released the installation-specific data, which was the basis for the Department's analysis. Specifically, it has not released data indicating how military value scores for each installation were derived. In past BRAC rounds, such data has been released.

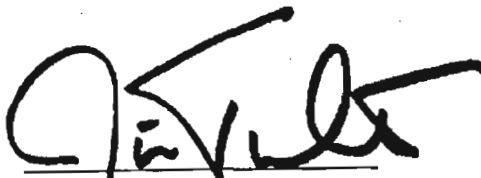
If the Department continues to delay the release of this data, communities adversely impacted by BRAC, and the BRAC commission, will be unable to assess the Department's recommendations in the limited time allotted to them under BRAC law. Communities affected by BRAC should know how their bases were measured so they can either support or challenge the proposals. The first commission hearings are scheduled for Tuesday, June 7th, less than two weeks from now, and the commission must send its recommendations to the President no later than September 8th, 2005.

We urge you to release this data immediately to avoid undermining the BRAC process.

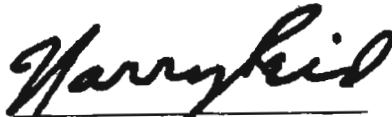
Sincerely,



OSD 10116-05



James Talent
United States Senator



Harry M. Reid
United States Senator



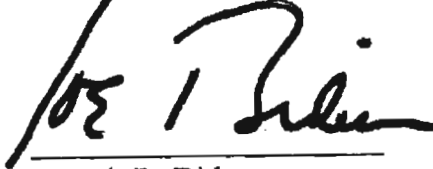
Olympia Snowe
United States Senator



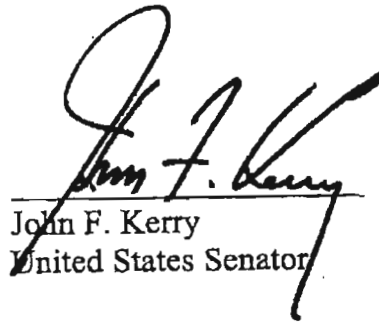
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator




Joseph I. Lieberman
United States Senator



Joseph R. Biden
United States Senator



John F. Kerry
United States Senator



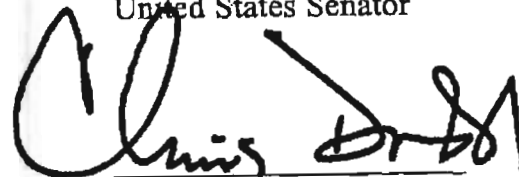
Carl Levin
United States Senator



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Barack Obama
United States Senator



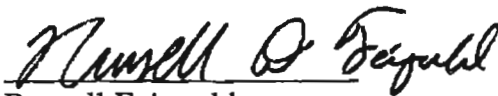
Chris Dodd
United States Senator



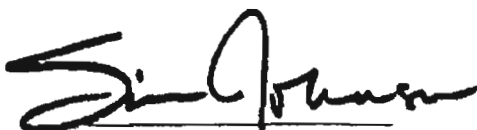
Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



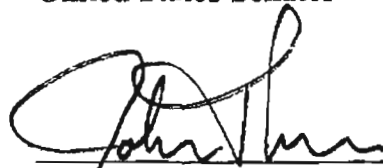
Herb Kohl
United States Senator



Russell Feingold
United States Senator



Tim Johnson
United States Senator



John Thune
United States Senator




John Cornyn
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



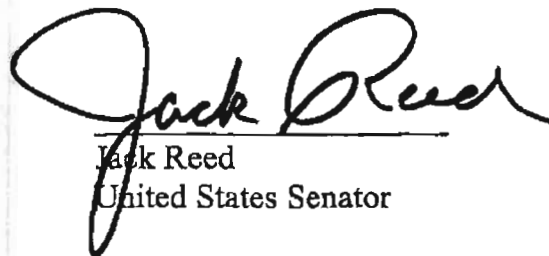
Tom Harkin
United States Senator



Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator



Jon S. Corzine
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator

BARACK OBAMA
ILLINOISCOMMITTEES:
ENVIRONMENT AND
PUBLIC WORKS
FOREIGN RELATIONS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 16, 2005

Hon. Powell A. Moore
Assistant Secretary of Defense
For Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Moore:

My constituent, (b)(6) contacted my office concerning an issue with the Department of Defense. Enclosed you will find information surrounding his case.

Your assistance in addressing this matter is greatly appreciated. David LeBreton, one of my staff members, is in contact with (b)(6) and will apprise him of your findings. If you have any questions surrounding this matter or require further information, please contact David at (312) 886-0826.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Barack Obama
United States Senator230 S. Dearborn St.
Suite 3900
Chicago, Illinois 60604
(312) 886-3506

BO/dlb

OSD 11844-05

BARACK OBAMA
ILLINOISCOMMITTEES:
ENVIRONMENT AND
PUBLIC WORKS
FOREIGN RELATIONS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 16, 2005

Hon. Powell A. Moore
Assistant Secretary of Defense
For Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301205 JUN 21 AM 11:06
RECEIVED
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Dear Mr. Moore:

My constituent, (b)(6), contacted my office concerning an issue with the Department of Defense. Enclosed you will find information surrounding his case.

Your assistance in addressing this matter is greatly appreciated. David LeBreton, one of my staff members, is in contact with (b)(6) and will apprise him of your findings. If you have any questions surrounding this matter or require further information, please contact David at (312) 886-0826.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Barack Obama
United States Senator230 S. Dearborn St.
Suite 3900
Chicago, Illinois 60604
(312) 886-3506

BO/dlb

OSD 11900-05

BARACK OBAMA
ILLINOISCOMMITTEES:
ENVIRONMENT AND
PUBLIC WORKS
FOREIGN RELATIONS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 15, 2005

Hon. Powell A. Moore
Assistant Secretary of Defense
For Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Moore:

My constituent, (b)(6) contacted my office concerning an issue with the Department of Defense. Enclosed you will find information surrounding her case.

Your assistance in addressing this matter is greatly appreciated. David LeBreton, one of my staff members, is in contact with (b)(6) and will apprise her of your findings. If you have any questions surrounding this matter or require further information, please contact David at (312) 886-0826.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Barack Obama
United States Senator

230 S. Dearborn St.
Suite 3900
Chicago, Illinois 60604
(312) 886-3506

BO/dlb

OSD 14454-05

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 26, 2005

Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, District of Columbia 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing on behalf of a number of my constituents whose loved ones have made the ultimate sacrifice for our great country. I am sure that you grieve as I do for every fallen soldier, and I appreciate that the Department of Defense is continually assessing the ways in which the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are affecting our troops and their families.

In the wake of these tragedies, our government should be doing everything possible to support the family members of these heroes as they grieve. I commend the tremendous work of casualty specialists who provide that support. I appreciate how important their empathy and compassion are under these difficult circumstances.

For this reason, I am very distressed to hear from some of my constituents that their casualty specialists have been called to serve in Iraq or Afghanistan before their duties to the grieving families are complete. For a spouse or parent in the midst of planning a funeral and figuring out how they are going to provide for their families, having their casualty officer called to active duty makes their situation all the more difficult. When one of our soldiers gives his or her life in service of our country, we can and must do better by their families, and we must be consistent in the ways we assist them.

I am requesting that you provide information about the current process of assigning casualty specialists to the next of kin of fallen soldiers. I would like to be able to reassure my constituents that everything possible is being done to ensure that this important relationship is working as it should.

I sincerely hope that the Department of Defense is addressing this issue, and I look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



Barack Obama
United States Senator

OSD 16809-05

BARACK OBAMA
ILLINOISCOMMITTEES:
ENVIRONMENT AND
PUBLIC WORKS
FOREIGN RELATIONS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 24, 2005

Hon. Powell A. Moore
Assistant Secretary of Defense
For Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 203012005 AUG 26 PM 3:40
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF THE
DEFENSE

Dear Mr. Moore:

My constituent, (b)(6), contacted my office concerning an issue with the Department of Defense. Enclosed you will find information surrounding his case.

Your assistance in addressing this matter is greatly appreciated. David LeBreton, one of my staff members, is in contact with (b)(6) and will apprise him of your findings. If you have any questions surrounding this matter or require further information, please contact David at (312) 886-0828.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Barack Obama
United States Senator230 S. Dearborn St.
Suite 3900
Chicago, Illinois 60604
(312) 886-3506

BO/dlb

OSD 17374-05

United States Senate OFFICE OF THE
SENATOR DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 31, 2005

2005 SEP 30 PM 2:39

Hon. Powell A. Moore
Assistant Secretary of Defense
For Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Moore:

My constituent, (b)(6) contacted my office concerning an issue with the Department of Defense. Enclosed you will find information surrounding his case.

Your assistance in addressing this matter is greatly appreciated. Jenna Pilat, one of my staff members, is in contact with (b)(6) and will apprise him of your findings. If you have any questions surrounding this matter or require further information, please contact Jenna at (312) 886-0826.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Barack Obama
United States Senator

230 S. Dearborn St.
Suite 3900
Chicago, Illinois 60604
(312) 886-3506

BO/jp

OSD 19636-05

673115

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 31, 2005

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The Defense Base Realignment and Closure Act clearly states that the number one criterion for BRAC decisions is military value. Unfortunately, the report that has been approved by the BRAC Commission failed to abide by that crucial standard. The set of recommendations approved by the Commission substantially deviates from the criteria established by law. As such, we urge you to return the report to the Commission for further revision.

Specifically, we write to you today about a set of recommendations involving Springfield's Capital Airport and Rock Island Arsenal in Illinois. As part of a larger vote involving Air National Guard facilities, the Commission elected to send the 15 F-16s of the Illinois Air Guard 183d Fighter Wing to Fort Wayne, Indiana. Capital Airport, home of the 183d, has a higher military value than Fort Wayne; this fact alone marks a deviation from BRAC criteria. In its evaluation, the Department of Defense alleged that the downgrading of military value would be justified by superior recruiting in Indiana. The evidence that members of the community and congressional delegation presented to the BRAC Commission clearly exposed the fallaciousness of this justification: the 183d enjoys outstanding recruiting in Illinois and is over 100 percent critically manned.

Furthermore, as the U.S. District Court of Eastern Pennsylvania recently ruled, the Defense Department should have obtained the consent of the Governor before seeking to deactivate a flying wing.

Decisions involving Rock Island Arsenal also defy the central criterion of military value and the paramount objective of enhancing national security through the more effective allocation of military resources. The Defense Financial and Accounting Services at Rock Island was the top-ranked unit in the country. But the Commission decided to transfer this agency from Rock Island to a substantially inferior facility, according to Department of Defense data, while defending the retention of three lower-ranked sites, allegedly on the basis of enhanced military value combined with economic impact. Shutting down a top-ranked facility (which had ample physical room and local capacity to grow) while maintaining and expanding the 12th, 17th, and 19th ranked units flies in the face of all logic. Moreover, the economic impact of this move on the communities in and around Rock Island also outweighs the prospective impact at two of the three lower-ranked recipient sites. Similarly, the decision to move the Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command from Rock Island to Michigan will fail to yield promised dividends: with projected costs exceeding \$150 million, the Department of Defense will never see returns on this investment.

We believe that the report submitted to you by the Department of Defense is deeply flawed. The inconsistencies, contradictions, and outright violations of BRAC criteria outlined above demonstrate the need for further revision. In its current form, this is not a report that advances our national interest. We urge you to return it to the Commission to correct these and other fundamental errors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dick Durbin".

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Barack Obama".

Barack Obama
United States Senator

BARACK OBAMA
ILLINOISCOMMITTEES:
ENVIRONMENT AND
PUBLIC WORKS
FOREIGN RELATIONS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 22, 2005

Hon. Powell A. Moore
Assistant Secretary of Defense
For Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Moore:

My constituent, (b)(6), contacted my office concerning an issue with the Department of Defense. Enclosed you will find information surrounding her case.

Your assistance in addressing this matter is greatly appreciated. Scott Hooks, one of my staff members, is in contact with (b)(6) and will apprise her of your findings. If you have any questions surrounding this matter or require further information, please contact Scott at (312) 886-0826.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Barack Obama
United States Senator230 S. Dearborn St.
Suite 3900
Chicago, Illinois 60604
(312) 886-3506

OSD 19090-05

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 28, 2005

2005 09 28 11 31 05

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-4000

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In the space of a few days, tens of thousands of National Guard and Reserve members were activated and deployed to the Gulf States to assist in rescue and recovery operations during and after Hurricane Katrina. While there are many questions that remain to be answered about the preparations for and response to that disaster, there is no question that every single state responded to the call for assistance in Louisiana and Mississippi and that the men and women of the National Guard demonstrated courage and fortitude in dangerous circumstances. Those circumstances included prolonged exposure in many cases to a potentially toxic environment. With petroleum products, heavy metals, household chemicals, biological contaminants, asbestos, pesticides, and materials from Superfund sites among a host of other toxic substances swirling in the flood waters, National Guard members, along with others, were likely exposed to a wide range of potential health hazards. Now, in the aftermath of Hurricane Rita, these concerns are further reinforced.

We understand that there are some screening mechanisms in place. However, we request that the Department of Defense provide the resources and guidance to the States that will ensure that all National Guard and Reserve members who have deployed to operations following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita receive medical screenings at the conclusion of their deployment, including those who were on duty for less than 30 days, due to the nature of the potential health risk. At a minimum, such screening should document types of exposure experienced, injuries or illnesses incurred, and medical treatment received. Appropriate diagnostic testing should be conducted. Because of stressful and difficult conditions of service, these screenings should also address mental health needs. In all cases, service men and women should receive information on how to follow up on health issues that may emerge after they return home, and the Department of Defense should ensure that a reporting system is in place to detect any Katrina-related health problems that may arise in this population. Screenings will help detect and treat skin, respiratory, or other ailments and also help document possible service connections to symptoms and illnesses which may arise after National Guard members return home.

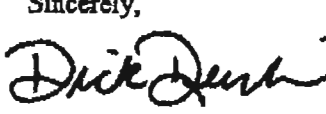
Too often in the past, the United States Government has fallen short of its obligations to those who have served our country by failing to acknowledge or address service-related health problems. Current law now requires pre- and post-deployment medical assessments for those service members deployed outside the United States, and we are pleased that the Department of Defense has recognized the need to extend that requirement to those working on Joint Task Force Katrina. As indicated, however, we believe it is important that such screenings include the thousands of National Guard and Reserve members who may be activated for under 30 days. Furthermore, a report by the Government Accountability Office indicated that a disturbingly

OSD 19867-05

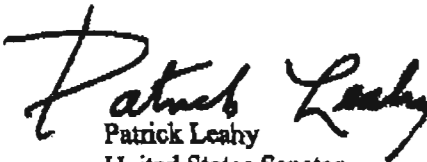
high percentage of Army and Air Force service members missed one or both of their overseas pre- and post-deployment health assessments. We hope and expect that record to improve for those serving abroad and for similar care to be extended to those serving in this tough mission here at home.

We are united in our commitment to help those affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and our admiration for those who have answered the call for rescue and relief missions to help those stranded by the hurricanes and to assist in the recovery and rebuilding effort. It is imperative that they receive the proper health care needed as a result of their deployment. Recognizing that the health repercussions of this service may not be immediately apparent, we regard the collection of data and instructions on where to go for follow-up examinations or assistance as vitally important. Thank you for your attention to these issues.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Patrick Leahy
United States Senator



Barack Obama
United States Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

SEP 29 12 04 PM '05

September 29, 2005

Hon. Powell A. Moore
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department Of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, District of Columbia 20301

Dear Mr. Moore:

The enclosed correspondence was received in my Chicago office from my constituent (b)(6)
(b)(6) Attached you will find him letter which gives a more accurate description and
explanation of his issues.

I would appreciate your looking into this matter at your earliest convenience. Please advise Scott
Hooks, who assists me in these matters, of your findings.

If you require any further assistance or have additional questions, please do not hesitate to
contact Scott Hooks at (312) 886-3506.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Senator Barack Obama
United States Senator

OSD 20632-05

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 19, 2005

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

We are writing to express our concern about the lack of political balance in talk radio programming on the Department of Defense's (DoD) American Forces Network and to request a definitive timeline by which we can expect DoD to correct this imbalance.

More than a year ago, the Senate unanimously adopted a resolution offered by Senator Harkin expressing the sense of the Senate that the Secretary of Defense should ensure full implementation of the American Forces Radio and Television Service goal of maintaining equal opportunity balance with respect to political programming.

AFN Radio carries the shows of a wide range of conservatives, including Rush Limbaugh, Dr. Laura Schlesinger, and James Dobson, to the near total exclusion of progressive talk radio hosts. This is in violation of DoD's own guidelines on political programming on the American Forces Network, specifically, DoD Directive 5120.20R, which calls for political programming on American Forces Network that is "characterized by its fairness and balance," as well as news programming guided by a "principle of fairness" that requires "reasonable opportunities for the presentation of conflicting views on important controversial public issues."

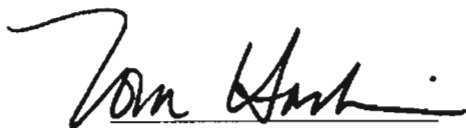
On September 29, 2005, Manny Levy, Chief of the Radio Division of the American Forces Network Broadcast Center, formally advised the syndicate that distributes "The Ed Schultz Show" that AFN Radio would "begin carrying the first hour of 'The Ed Schultz Show' each day, beginning Monday, October 17, 2005 at noon PT/3 ET." However, higher-level DoD officials subsequently backtracked on this commitment. A Pentagon spokesman said that Mr. Levy "got ahead of the process," and that no decision had been made in a review of which programming to add to the network.

Inclusion of "The Ed Schultz Show" would have been a first, partial step toward achieving balance in political programming on AFN Radio. Even that first step has been abruptly canceled. Why, more than a year since the Senate passed its resolution, has DoD not implemented any program changes to balance political programming? At this late date, why is DoD still in violation of its own guidelines for political programming on AFN Radio? Given the time that has passed since this issue was brought to the attention of DoD by the Senate, the problem is not that Mr. Levy was "ahead of the process." The problem is that DoD is woefully behind in addressing this imbalance and coming into full compliance with its own guidelines and procedures.

OSD 21436-05

We request that you provide us with an action plan and timeline for achieving greater political balance in AFN Radio programming as quickly as possible. We respectfully request that you respond to this letter by November 1, 2005.

Sincerely,



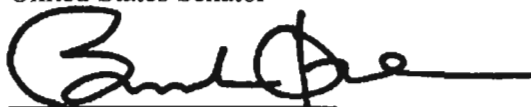
Tom Harkin
United States Senator



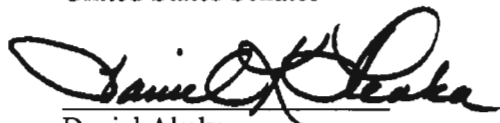
Carl Levin
United States Senator



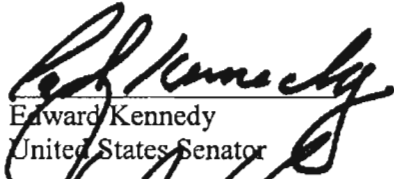
Mark Dayton
United States Senator



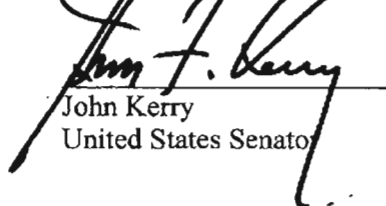
Barack Obama
United States Senator



Daniel Akaka
United States Senator



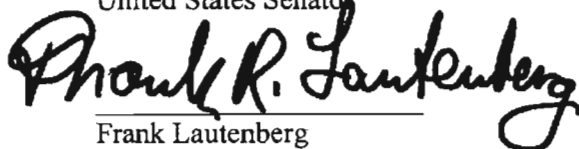
Edward Kennedy
United States Senator



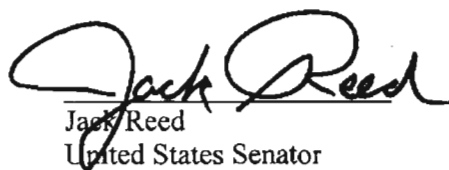
John Kerry
United States Senator



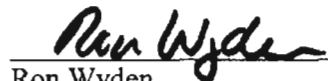
Byron Dorgan
United States Senator



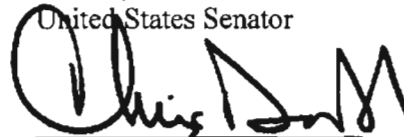
Frank Lautenberg
United States Senator



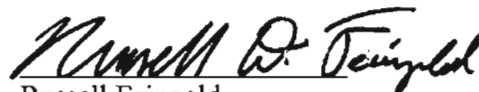
Jack Reed
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Christopher Dodd
United States Senator



Russell Feingold
United States Senator

BARACK OBAMA
ILLINOIS

COMMITTEES:
ENVIRONMENT AND
PUBLIC WORKS
FOREIGN RELATIONS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

2005 OCT 26 12:49

October 26, 2005

Hon. Powell A. Moore
Assistant Secretary of Defense For Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, District of Columbia 20301

Dear Mr. Moore:

The enclosed correspondence was received in my Chicago office from my constituent, (b)(6)

(b)(6) Attached you will find his letter which gives a more accurate description and explanation of his issues.

I would appreciate your looking into this matter at your earliest convenience. Please advise Scott Hooks, who assists me in these matters, of your findings.

If you require any further assistance or have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact Scott Hooks at (312) 886-3506.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Senator Barack Obama
United States Senator

Office of U.S. Senator Barack Obama
230 S. Dearborn St., Suite 3900
Chicago, IL 60604

BO/sh

OSD 21271-05

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 27, 2005

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington DC 20301-1000

Dear Mr. Secretary,

We are writing to urge you to ensure that the next supplemental budget request for Iraq and Afghanistan includes a request for full funding of the Common Remotely Operated Weapons Station (CROWS) program. The Army has indicated a requirement for \$206 million in FY06 supplemental funding to provide an additional 820 of these units to our men and women overseas, and to ramp up for future production. We believe this request should be supported by the Administration and included in the formal supplemental funding request to Congress. We further ask that you request full funding for this program in FY07 as a part of the DoD's regular budget.

A few months ago Senator Salazar received a letter from an Army Specialist serving in Iraq whose friend was killed by an IED. His letter reads as follows:

Two days ago a good friend of mine was killed in action when an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) detonated next to his Humvee. He was sitting in the gunner seat and pulling rear security. I have seen automated guns that can go on the top of these same Humvees. These guns are controlled from inside the vehicle. Why are these guns not on every Humvee?... The four people that were inside the vehicle were physically unharmed. If the answer is money, then I would really like to know how much my friend's life was worth.

With only a few systems deployed, CROWS is already saving lives of soldiers in Iraq today by moving soldiers out of the exposed gunner's seat and inside the protective shell of an up-armored Humvee. We understand that during the last two weeks of September three CROWS units were struck by Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). Despite damage to the Humvees, the three CROWS mounts remained operational to engage the enemy. More importantly, all 12 soldiers including the gunners were inside, protected by armor, and received only minor injuries.

Funding the CROWS program at the Army's requested amount of \$206 million will provide our soldiers with roughly 820 of these impressive and life-saving systems. It is imperative for the safety of our soldiers that this program continue to move ahead with the utmost attention and support from your Department and from Congress.

We stand ready to work with you on this vitally important matter.

Sincerely,



Senator Ken Salazar

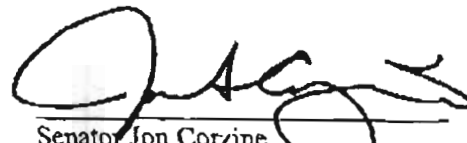

Senator Richard Burr


Senator Carl Levin


Senator Jon Kyl

OSD 21326-05



Senator Lincoln Chafee

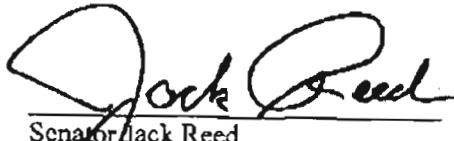

Senator Jon Corzine


Senator Richard Durbin

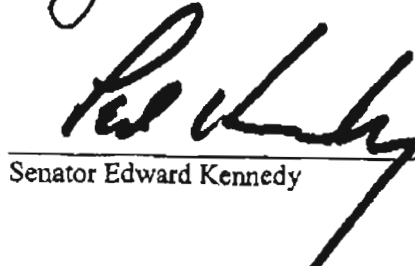

Senator Russell Feingold


Senator Frank Lautenberg


Senator Barack Obama


Senator Jack Reed


Senator John D. Rockefeller


Senator Edward Kennedy


Senator Debbie Stabenow

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

SEC 111-1111
2005 NOV -4 AM 11:30

November 3, 2005

The Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary,

As you prepare your budget request for Fiscal Year 2007, we ask that you include funding which will fully equip the Army National Guard with combat equipment which has dual use by the States for domestic emergencies.

We also ask the administration to address the recommendations of the Government Accountability Office with respect to the need to improve National Guard equipment readiness and its integration into Army transformation initiatives.

The Army National Guard plays a crucial role in State response to domestic emergencies. The greatly diminished percentage of equipment on-hand in our Guard units carries with it the risk of not only denying these units the equipment needed to conduct good training for their combat mission but also leaves them with fewer tools to support State responses to natural disasters, terrorist incidents or other emergencies. While it is possible to shift equipment from State to State, it is clear that National Guard response will be faster if the needed equipment is available for training and closer to the point of need.

Specific items of National Guard equipment are of particular value for homeland security purposes. These include trucks of various sizes, communications equipment, night vision devices, engineer equipment and helicopters. Unfortunately, the National Guard has troubling shortages in all of these areas. Nationwide the Guard has only 2/3 of the Humvees, 3/4 of the radios, half of the night vision devices and 1/4 of the modern medium trucks it needs to be mission responsive. Moreover, due to combat wear and the operational need for returning units to leave some equipment behind in the combat zone, these shortages are getting worse.

Please give full consideration to the homeland security value of National Guard equipment and include in your budget request a plan to bring our Guard up to 100% of key assets.

Dick Durbin

Patrick Leahy

Jeff Bond
LJH

OSD 21800-05

Letter to the Secretary of Defense

105 1 Bill

Red Kennedy

Mike Cryo

Robert L. Michael

Allen Jech

Jefferson

Rick Sistrum

Hillary Rodham Clinton

J. Long

W. Jeffords

George Allen

Mike Davis

Carl De

Ken Salazar

Frank R. d

isach P Lincoln

Mark Boyer

Samuel H. DeLoach

James Johnson

Byron H. Eason

Jay Byrnes

Murphy D. Felt

Jack Reed

Walter C. Sullivan

R. W. Galt

Mark Dayton

Alvin Karpis

Pete Murray

Letter the Secretary of Defense

John F. Kerry

Jim Talent

Erin Boyle

Bill Nelson

Chris D. M.

Craig Thomas

Chuck Grassley

Tommy Egan

Bob Felt

Susan M. Collins

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

205 111 111 111

December 1, 2005

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary
Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

I am writing to express my concern over reports of civilian casualties arising from the U.S. military's use of white phosphorus in Iraq, and to urge your office to thoroughly investigate these incidents.

I understand that while the United States is a party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), it has not ratified Protocol III of that convention, which regulates the use of incendiary weapons, such as white phosphorus. As a result, the United States has not agreed to ban the use of white phosphorus against military targets. Nonetheless, any use of white phosphorus – or any other incendiary weapon which ignites on exposure to oxygen and can burn human skin down to the bone if not extinguished – in an area with a large civilian population is deeply troubling.

Initially, the Department of Defense claimed that the white phosphorus was used only for illumination purposes, but the Department later admitted that in fact it was used to target insurgents in Fallujah. I do not question the honor and integrity of our brave men and women fighting in Iraq, but I am concerned that the use of such a weapon in a highly populated location like Fallujah may undermine a critical aspect of our mission there: winning the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people.

Allegations that white phosphorus may have resulted in the death or injury of civilians are serious, and I ask that your office make the investigation of this issue a priority, for the people of Iraq, for our soldiers, and for the American public.

I look forward to your response within the next ten days.

Sincerely,



Barack Obama
United States Senator

OSD 24153-05

BARACK OBAMA
111605

COMMITTEES
ENVIRONMENT AND
PUBLIC WORKS
FOREIGN RELATIONS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1306

714 PM 26 M 3: 53

March 7, 2006

Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
c/o Legislative Affairs
The Pentagon
Washington, District of Columbia 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

A constituent of mine serving in Iraq has expressed concerns regarding a phone service contract and new charges for certain soft drinks. I have enclosed these concerns and ask that you respond to me.

Thank you in advance for your attention and prompt response on behalf of my constituent.

Sincerely,



Barack Obama
United States Senator

Enclosure

OSD 04483-06

BARACK OBAMA
ILLINOISCOMMITTEES:
ENVIRONMENT AND
PUBLIC WORKS
FOREIGN RELATIONS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510
11 10 20 PM 1:10

March 17, 2006

The Honorable Daniel R. Stanley
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, District of Columbia 20301

Dear Assistant Secretary Stanley:

The enclosed correspondence was received in my Chicago office from my constituent, (b)(6).
(b)(6) Attached you will find her letter which gives a more accurate description and explanation of the issues.

I would appreciate your looking into this matter at your earliest convenience. Please advise Scott Hooks, who assists me in these matters, of your findings.

If you require any further assistance or have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact Scott Hooks at 312-886-3506.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Senator Barack Obama
United States Senator

BO/sh

OSD 04464-06

WASHINGTON OFFICE
733 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
OFFICE (202) 224-1864
FAX (202) 228-4150

CHICAGO OFFICE
230 S. DEARBORN
SUITE 3800
CHICAGO, IL 60604
OFFICE (312) 886-3506
FAX (312) 226-3514

SPRINGFIELD OFFICE
607 EAST ADAMS
SUITE 1520
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62701
OFFICE (217) 492-5890
FAX (217) 492-5099

MAHON OFFICE
701 NORTH COURT STREET
MAHON, IL 62858
OFFICE (618) 987-2402
FAX (618) 987-2850

QUAD CITIES OFFICE
1811 62ND AVENUE
MOLINE, IL 61265
OFFICE (309) 736-1217
FAX (309) 736-1232

BARACK OBAMA

CLIP-02

COMMITTEES:
ENVIRONMENT AND
PUBLIC WORKS
FOREIGN RELATIONS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON DC 20510-1306

April 17, 2006

Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
Legislative Affairs
The Pentagon
Washington, District of Columbia 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

One of my constituents has contacted me to express her concerns that the military does not pay for soldiers to be transported to their homes once they reach their bases. I have enclosed her original correspondence and ask that you respond to her directly with any guidance you may be able to offer.

I appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Barack Obama
United States Senator

Enclosure

OSD 06701-06



4/25/2006 3:43:48 PM

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 16, 2006

Mr. Daniel R. Stanley
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, District of Columbia 20301

Dear Mr. Stanley:

The enclosed correspondence was delivered to my Chicago District office. I have sent an acknowledgment to (b)(6) Village Administrator of Lake in the Hills, Illinois and have indicated that this matter would be referred to your attention.

I assured my constituent that you would give full consideration to his request in a timely manner. I would appreciate any additional information that would aid (b)(6). Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

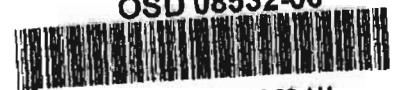
Sincerely,



Senator Barack Obama
United States Senator

BO/sh
Enclosure

OSD 08532-06



5/30/2006 11:26:03 AM

WASHINGTON OFFICE
713 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
OFFICE (202) 224-2854
FAX (202) 228-4260

CHICAGO OFFICE
230 S. DEARBORN
SUITE 3900
CHICAGO, IL 60604
OFFICE (312) 886-3506
FAX (312) 886-3514

SPRINGFIELD OFFICE
607 EAST ADAMS
SUITE 1520
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62701
OFFICE (217) 492-5890
FAX (217) 492-5099

MARION OFFICE
701 NORTH COURT STREET
MARION, IL 62959
OFFICE (618) 997-2402
FAX (618) 997-2850

QUAD CITIES OFFICE
1911 52ND AVENUE
MOLINE, IL 61265
OFFICE (309) 736-1217
FAX (309) 736-1233

BARACK OBAMA
ILLINOISCOMMITTEES:
ENVIRONMENT AND
PUBLIC WORKS
FOREIGN RELATIONS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 3, 2006

The Honorable Robert Wilkie
Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs
Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, District of Columbia 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Wilkie:

The enclosed correspondence was received in my Chicago office regarding E-J Industries, Inc. Attached you will find a letter which gives a more accurate description and explanation of the issues.

I would appreciate your looking into this matter at your earliest convenience. Please advise Scott Hooks, who assists me in these matters, of your findings.

If you require any further assistance or have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact Scott Hooks at (312) 886-3506.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Senator Barack Obama
United States Senator

BO/sh
Enclosure

OSD 13558-06



8/28/2006 1:46:18 PM

WASHINGTON OFFICE
713 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
OFFICE (202) 224-2854
FAX (202) 228-4280

CHICAGO OFFICE
230 S. DEARBORN
SUITE 2800
CHICAGO, IL 60604
OFFICE (312) 886-3506
FAX (312) 886-3514

SPRINGFIELD OFFICE
607 EAST ADAMS
SUITE 1820
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62701
OFFICE (217) 482-6890
FAX (217) 482-6889

MAISON OFFICE
701 NORTH COURT STREET
MAISON, IL 62959
OFFICE (618) 397-2402
FAX (618) 987-2850

QUAS CITY OFFICE
1911 52ND AVENUE
MOLINE, IL 61265
OFFICE (308) 738-1217
FAX (308) 738-1233

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 8, 2006

Mr. Robert Wilkie
Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs
Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, District of Columbia 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Wilkie:

The enclosed correspondence was received in my Chicago office from my constituent,
(b)(6). Attached you will find his letter which gives a more accurate description
and explanation of his issues.

I would appreciate your looking into this matter at your earliest convenience. Please advise
Scott Hooks, who assists me in these matters, of your findings.

If you require any further assistance or have additional questions, please do not hesitate to
contact Scott Hooks at (312) 886-3506.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Senator Barack Obama
United States Senator

BO/sh
Enclosure

OSD 13540-06



8/28/2006 10:03:38 AM

WASHINGTON OFFICE
713 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
OFFICE (202) 224-2854
FAX (202) 228-4260

CHICAGO OFFICE
230 S. DEARBORN
SUITE 3900
CHICAGO, IL 60604
OFFICE (312) 886-3506
FAX (312) 886-3514

SPRINGFIELD OFFICE
607 EAST ADAMS
SUITE 1520
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62701
OFFICE (217) 492-5890
FAX (217) 492-5099

MARION OFFICE
701 NORTH COURT STREET
MARION, IL 62959
OFFICE (618) 997-2402
FAX (618) 997-2850

QUAD CITIES OFFICE
1911 52ND AVENUE
MOLINE, IL 61265
OFFICE (309) 736-1217
FAX (309) 736-1233

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 7, 2006

The Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

We are writing concerning the ongoing study on the effects of wind energy projects on military readiness that the Department of Defense (DoD) is performing in response to Section 358 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (P.L. 109-163). The study was due no later than May 7, 2006, yet the Department has missed this deadline and no report, to date, has been released.

In March 2006, the DOD and Department of Homeland Security released an interim policy that resulted in the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) issuance of "Notices of Presumed Hazard" to wind projects located within a radar line of site of the National Air Defense and Homeland Security Radars. Many of the projects that received these notices are located in the Midwest. Each day this report remains delinquent, these wind energy projects lose opportunities for new investment, and may not be able to meet deadlines for completion. Additionally, due to the limited number of companies with expertise in windmill farm construction, the delay involving current projects indirectly affects a large number of proposed projects. As a result, wind development has been halted in its tracks, with the threat of permanent derailment.

Although we eagerly await the findings of the DOD study, we are concerned that the study will report on interference from wind turbines on radar systems, but will not adequately examine effective mitigation opportunities. Therefore, we are concerned about the impact of the report on overall wind production.

We ask that you immediately expedite the completion of this report and that the report include a clear articulation of any conflict between the windmill farms and military radar installations. This is necessary to provide clarity for the industry and allow these companies to move forward with their projects. We also ask that you ensure the report meets the requirements of the National Defense Authorization Act by identifying any technologies that could mitigate any adverse effects on the military operations identified.

We understand that the nomination of Mr. Robert L. Wilkie to be Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs for the Department of Defense (DoD) is pending before the Senate. We have placed a "hold" on this nomination because of the Department's failure to meet the deadline for completion and release of the aforementioned congressionally mandated report.

SECDEF CABLES DISTRIBUTION				
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14				

OSD 14080-06



9/8/2006 6:47:25 AM

We would appreciate your effort to release this long-awaited report prior to consideration of this nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Barack Obama in black ink, featuring a stylized 'B' and 'O'.

Barack Obama
United States Senator

A handwritten signature of Richard J. Durbin in black ink, written in a cursive style.

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 25, 2006

The Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20350

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We write to express our strong support for the E-10 Technology Development Program and its critical Multi-Platform – Radar Technology Insertion Program (MP-RTIP). This large radar will provide unique capabilities in the Global War on Terrorism and against threats for decades to come. Congress has long supported Joint STARS operations and the information it provides to the warfighter. MP-RTIP will provide a quantum increase in capability over the current Joint STARS radar, and is required to increase our forces' ability to detect, track and identify ground moving targets, as well as providing a key link in cruise missile defense capability.

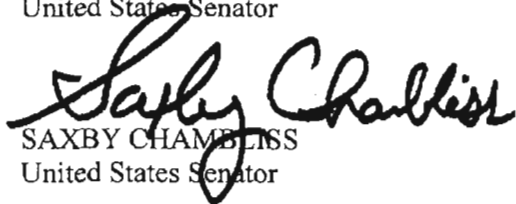
Congress has supported the development of the MP-RTIP radar with the commitment of over a billion dollars to date for the development of this vital program. We believe that it would be unwise for the Department of Defense to abandon this program after years of successful development, especially when DoD is on the verge of actually characterizing and demonstrating the radar's expected capability. Congress supports the plan to fly the large radar on an E-10, or on an E-8 as originally envisioned, thereby validating the significant investment in developing this critical technology.

We seek your assurance that the Department remains committed to fully fund this critical capability in the budget for fiscal year 2008 as stated in your recent Quadrennial Defense Review report that was submitted to Congress. The Department must continue to demonstrate and characterize the MP-RTIP radar and validate, via live flight, the capability to complete the kill chain against both air and ground moving targets.

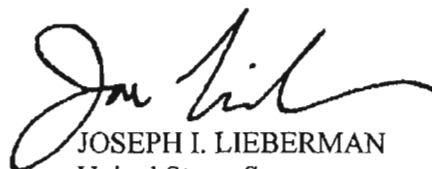
Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER J. DODD
United States Senator



SAXBY CHAMBLISS
United States Senator



JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN
United States Senator



JOHNNY ISAKSON
United States Senator

OSD 15495-06



10/2/2006 2:40:02 PM

Bill Nelson

BILL NELSON
United States Senator

Barbara A. Mikulski

BARBARA MIKULSKI
United States Senator

Mary Landrieu

MARY LANDRIEU
United States Senator

Patrick Leahy

PATRICK LEAHY
United States Senator

Trent Lott

TRENT LOTT
United States Senator

Dianne Feinstein

DIANNE FEINSTEIN
United States Senator

Mel Martinez

MEL MARTINEZ
United States Senator

Paul Sarbanes

PAUL SARBANES
United States Senator

David Vitter

DAVID VITTER
United States Senator

Larry Craig

LARRY CRAIG
United States Senator

Richard Durbin

RICHARD DURBIN
United States Senator

Barack Obama

BARACK OBAMA
United States Senator

BARACK OBAMA
ILLINOISCOMMITTEES:
ENVIRONMENT AND
PUBLIC WORKS
FOREIGN RELATIONS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

United States Department of Defense
Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs
Hon. Robert Wilkie
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Hon. Robert Wilkie,

My constituent (b)(6) contacted my office concerning an issue with the Department of Defense. Enclosed you will find information surrounding his concern.

Your assistance in addressing this matter is greatly appreciated. Jamia Porter, one of my staff members, is in contact with (b)(6) and will apprise him of your findings. If you have any questions surrounding this matter or require further information, please contact Jamia at (217) 492-5089.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Barack Obama
United States Senator

607 East Adams St.
Suite 1520
Springfield, IL 62701
(217) 492-5089

BO/-

OSD 15279-06



9/27/2006 1:55:32 PM

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BARACK OBAMA
ILLINOISCOMMITTEES:
ENVIRONMENT AND
PUBLIC WORKS
FOREIGN RELATIONS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 3, 2006

Honorable Robert Wilkie
Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs
Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, District of Columbia 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Wilkie:

The enclosed correspondence was received in my Chicago office from my constituent, (b)(6).
(b)(6) Attached you will find his letter which gives a more accurate description and explanation of his issues.

I would appreciate your looking into this matter at your earliest convenience. Please advise Scott Hooks, who assists me in these matters, of your findings.

If you require any further assistance or have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact Scott Hooks at 312-886-3506.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Senator Barack Obama
United States Senator

OSD 15788-06



10/6/2006 8:30:37 AM

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 7, 2007

United States Department of Defense
Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs
Hon. Robert Wilkie
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Hon. Robert Wilkie,

My constituent, (b)(6) contacted my office concerning an issue with the Department of Defense. Enclosed you will find information surrounding his concern.

Your assistance in addressing this matter is greatly appreciated. Jamia Porter, one of my staff members, is in contact with (b)(6) and will apprise him of your findings. If you have any questions surrounding this matter or require further information, please contact Jamia at (217) 492-5089.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Barack Obama
United States Senator

607 East Adams St.
Suite 1520
Springfield, IL 62701
(217) 492-5089

BO/jdl

OSD 02510-07



2/15/2007 3:53:54 PM

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CLAIRE McCASKILL
MISSOURI

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 2, 2007

Hon. Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Gates,

We are writing to urge you to relieve from duty Lieutenant General (LTG) Kevin Kiley, the Army Surgeon General and Commander of Army Medical Command. LTG Kiley commanded Walter Reed Army Medical Center from June 2002 to September 2004 and has served as Army Surgeon General since that time. Both in his tenure as Commander at Walter Reed and as Army Surgeon General, LTG Kiley was aware of the unacceptable living conditions for outpatients and the lack of assistance for our nation's injured service men and women fighting the military medical bureaucracy. By all accounts and LTG Kiley's own words, it is clear that he failed to address these problems.

Under the command of then Major General Kiley, a culture of neglect and indifference to outpatient concerns developed at Walter Reed. LTG Kiley's recent statements indicate he is stubbornly continuing to propagate this command climate now as Army Surgeon General, even as senior Army and Department of Defense officials acknowledge the problems in the Army Medical Command. Simply stated, LTG Kiley does not get it. It is my belief that the dismissive command climate established by LTG Kiley is nothing short of a national disgrace and that a vital step in remedying the problem is his removal from command. We note that the removal of those subordinate to LTG Kiley eerily mirrors the embarrassment of Abu Ghraib when underlings were scapegoated to insulate those higher in the chain of command.

We are aware that Major General (MG) George Weightman, the head of Walter Reed, was relieved of his command at the facility. Yet MG Weightman commanded the facility for just seven months. LTG Kiley, on the other hand, established many of the procedures and policies that are in place at Walter Reed and has had continuous oversight of the facility since June of 2002. It is evident that LTG Kiley set the tone of indifference during his command at Walter Reed and allowed this tone to now spread through the full Army Medical Command.

We note in particular the contrast between MG Weightman's response to the recent series of *Washington Post* articles about Walter Reed and LTG Kiley's response. MG Weightman immediately and publicly took personal responsibility for the problems at Walter Reed. Meanwhile, his commander and predecessor, LTG Kiley, dismissed the problems outlined in the articles as minor. We know from your public statements, those of Secretary Gates and my own personal inspection of Walter Reed earlier this week that the problems are not minor.

OSD 03325-07



3/5/2007 8:58:35 AM

Hon. Robert Gates
March 2, 2007
Page 2

You also likely share our astonishment in reading of the experiences of (b)(6) wife of House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee member Rep. Bill Young. She recently described to the *Washington Post* ("Hospital Officials Knew of Neglect," March 1, 2007) her and her husband's repeated encounters with Kiley during his command at Walter Reed where they had raised concerns about what they had seen at the hospital. (b)(6) said of LTG Kiley, "He has skirted this stuff for five years and blamed everyone else."

LTG Kiley's own public statements following the *Washington Post* series also reveal serious problems in his command approach. LTG Kiley immediately suggested that the situation was blown out of proportion, stating to the media on a tour of Building 18 on February 22, 2007 that the problems "weren't serious and there weren't a lot of them." He also said that the problems were not "emblematic of a process of Walter Reed that has abandoned soldiers and their families."

In an appearance on February 21st on the *News Hour with Jim Lehrer*, Kiley said, "We're not letting soldiers languish." He explained, "The issues ... have been about the quality of life, specifically some of the issues in Building 18, and then the bureaucracy." The next day LTG Kiley explained at a press conference that "while we have some issues here, this is not horrific, catastrophic failure." It is a catastrophic failure when disabled soldiers and their families are forced to endure months and often years of bureaucratic obstacles and injured men and women are living in housing infested with vermin with walls are covered in mold.

Lt. General Kiley must be held accountable. The nation owes our military men and women who have sacrificed for our country the very best in medical care, services and support, not a new fight with a Byzantine command climate and medical bureaucracy. That requires a senior commander who believes in establishing a command climate that demands and delivers the best, not a culture of neglect and indifference. The problems in the Army Medical Command have occurred both under LTG Kiley's command and *because* of LTG Kiley's command. One important step in fixing them is to terminate LTG Kiley's command.

We are hopeful that the Army will heed of the words of Vice Chief of Staff General Richard Cody when he called the problems "a breakdown in leadership." ("At Walter Reed, 'We're Going to Fix It,'" *Washington Post*, February 22, 2007). All indications are that the leader most responsible for these failures is LTG Kiley.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


CLAIRE MCCASKILL
Senator


BARACK OBAMA
Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 3, 2007

Honorable Robert Wilkie
Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs
Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, District of Columbia 20301-1300

Dear Secretary Wilkie:

A group of Illinois constituents have expressed concern regarding a FOIA request for information on students at the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation. I would appreciate your careful review of this matter and direct correspondence to these constituents. I would also appreciate your forwarding me a copy of your letter.

Please find this constituent correspondence enclosed. Thank you for your prompt attention and response.

Sincerely,



Barack Obama
United States Senator

Enclosure

OSD 08235-07



5/15/2007 2:25:19 PM

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BARACK OBAMA
ILLINOIS

COMMITTEE:

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HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

FOREIGN RELATIONS

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 8, 2007

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I'm troubled by reports that our emergency response capabilities continue to be hampered because National Guard resources have been diverted overseas. The Guard provides our first defense against disasters that strike on our soil. In light of the tragic events in Greensburg, Kansas, I'm writing to ask you that the federal government ensure that the National Guard has the resources necessary to respond to disasters here at home.

In my home state of Illinois, the Air National Guard reports shortages of trucks, earth movers, and other equipment critical to emergency response. According to the Government Accountability Office, the Illinois National Guard only has 45.6% of its dual-use equipment on hand. That's under half of what we need to dam the Mississippi if it overflows. That's under half of what we need to respond to deadly tornadoes. That's under half of what we need to evacuate wounded civilians from an attack.

Our National Guard should never be overstretched to the point where we allow our homeland security and emergency response capabilities to erode. We must provide our troops with all of the resources they need to perform their missions overseas, but we must also ensure that civilians at home are protected from natural disasters and security threats.

Governor Sebelius was right to question the diversion of the Guard's resources and personnel overseas. There's no question that this has undercut our emergency preparedness and our homeland security. While the Emergency Management Assistance Compact allows states to cooperate in times of emergency, you know that during a disaster, time equals lives, and the extra time needed to mobilize outside assistance cannot compare with the effectiveness of having people and equipment positioned and ready to respond to a disaster. Your administration should make available all aid necessary to help the residents of Greensburg recover from the tragedy that leveled their homes. The National Governors Association has requested budget authority to reequip Army and Air National Guard units returning from overseas missions – and that authority should be granted.

We cannot afford to learn a lesson about unmet needs each time a disaster strikes. The National Guard is the essential mechanism through which states prepare for and respond to emergencies. If your administration chooses to divert state resources to assist the military overseas, this gap should be filled in order to protect Americans at home.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Barack Obama", written over a circular stamp or seal.

Barack Obama
United States Senate

Enclosure

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 22, 2007

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

In recent months, troubling allegations have surfaced at Ft. Carson, Colorado, suggesting that soldiers are not receiving adequate care for mental health problems incurred as a result of combat service in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Specifically, soldiers have asserted that they are not receiving comprehensive treatment for Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and mental health issues, such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). They have also alleged that the command climate discourages soldiers from seeking help for these problems. As a result, we dispatched members of our staff to Ft. Carson last week to investigate these claims.

While Ft. Carson has taken some important steps to improve care for soldiers—including implementing mandatory TBI screening and enhancing the pre- and post-deployment screening process—the reality remains that the base is facing significant challenges in providing mental health care services. The Department of Defense Mental Health Task Force recently found that the stigma of mental illness and injury is pervasive across our Armed Forces—and Ft. Carson is proving to be no exception.

After meeting with soldiers as well as commanders at the base, our staff concluded that the stigma of mental illness is a significant barrier to care. They also determined there is a considerable lack of resources to adequately support the psychological needs of our service members and their families, and a lack of training and education regarding mental health problems for leaders from the division level to the unit level. These issues are severely impairing the ability of our Army and the Department of Defense to produce and maintain the best trained and equipped military fighting force in the world.

While visiting the base, our staff received a commitment from Major General Jeffrey Hammond, Commander 4th Infantry Division, that he will investigate claims of command intimidation and lack of access to timely mental health services. They also received his commitment to train military personnel on the mental health challenges many of our service members face.

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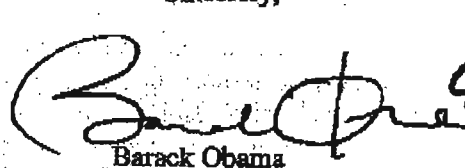
While we are pleased at this commitment, it is apparent that the challenges at Ft. Carson cannot be solved by General Hammond alone. Therefore, we urge you to ensure that Ft. Carson and every other military installation facing similar problems are given the resources and direction necessary to provide an optimal level of care for our service members. We will be following up with a more detailed staff report on Ft. Carson in the near future, and we expect the Department of Defense to immediately review those findings and take appropriate action to see that any and all problems are corrected.

Congress and the American people have made clear, especially following the revelations at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, that substandard care for injured service members will not be tolerated. These men and women have stood up for our country, and we have no greater obligation than to stand with them and their families in their hours of greatest need.

Please respond as soon as possible to indicate your plans to address these issues.

Sincerely,


Barbara Boxer


Barack Obama


Christopher S. Bond


Hillary Rodham Clinton


Joseph R. Lieberman


John F. Kerry

BARACK OBAMA
ILLINOIS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:

HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR AND PENSIONS

HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

FOREIGN RELATIONS

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Department of Defense
Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs
Hon. Robert Wilkie
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Hon. Robert Wilkie,

My constituent is concerned and would like to have a health and welfare check concerning the enclosed issue at Fort Victory.

Your assistance in addressing this matter is greatly appreciated. Jamia Porter, one of my staff members, is in contact with the constituent and will apprise them of your findings. If you have any questions surrounding this matter or require further information, please contact Jamia at (217) 492-5089.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Barack Obama
United States Senator

607 East Adams St.
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Springfield, IL 62701
(217) 492-5089

BO/pd

OSD 09820-07



6/13/2007 2:29:57 PM

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 7, 2007

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing to request your recommendations for reforming a system of equipping Iraqi Security Forces that is clearly lacking in accountability.

According to a report recently released by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the U.S. military cannot account for nearly 30 percent of the weapons that were given to Iraqi Security Forces through early 2007. Specifically, GAO reports that some 110,000 AK-47 assault rifles and 80,000 pistols are missing. Furthermore, GAO reports that the U.S. military had no system of accounting for these weapons in 2004 and 2005, when something as simple as a serial number could have provided an important tracking tool.

Given the importance of the train and equip program to the long-term prospects for peace and stability in Iraq, I am deeply troubled that this program seems to lack such basic oversight.

Because small-arms fire is a hallmark of this conflict, it is likely that these weapons are being used against our own brave men and women serving in Iraq. We also may be inadvertently providing arms to all sides of Iraq's civil war. Given the enormous amount of weapons missing, it is all too probable that groups like Sunni Arab insurgents, Shiite militias with ties to the Iranian government, and common criminals have been using weapons that were bought and paid for by the American taxpayer.

With this letter, I am requesting a detailed explanation of the accountability measures in place to ensure that our weapons are not falling in the wrong hands, your assessment of those accountability measures, and your recommendations for reforming a system that has clearly been inadequate. For roughly four years we have been trying to train and equip competent Iraqi Security Forces; it is past time that we got this right.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Barack Obama
United States Senator



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 19, 2007

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing with regard to an incident in Baghdad earlier this week involving the State Department's security escort, which is made up of armed private contractors from the Blackwater firm. During a firefight last weekend, Blackwater security contractors killed 8 people and wounded 14 others.

This incident, which is under investigation at the Department of State, raises larger questions about the role of private security contractors. An estimated 48,000 private security employees are operating in Iraq, and more than 1,000 contractors have died in Iraq since 2003. As last weekend's incident illustrates, little is known about what functions these security contractors are performing, how much their services are costing, what military and safety equipment they are provided, and what rules of engagement they are following.

For that reason, in February, I introduced the Transparency and Accountability in Military and Security Contracting Act (S. 674). The bill would require federal agencies to report to Congress on: the total number of security contractors; the total cost of the contractors; the number of contractors killed or wounded; information about the military and safety equipment provided to contractors; and a description of disciplinary action taken against contractors. The bill would improve coordination between security contractors and U.S. armed forces by requiring the issuance of rules of engagement, clarify the legal status of contractors, and require investigation of criminal misconduct engaged in by contractors.

In an effort to learn more about Blackwater's operations in Iraq, I am interested in getting your reaction to several issues under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense.

1) The press has reported several other instances involving Blackwater, including a reported shooting of the Iraqi Vice President's security guard, reported shootings of Interior Ministry employees, and reported armed standoffs between Blackwater employees and Iraqi police. Has the Pentagon investigated these or other incidents? If yes, what were the results of those investigations?

2) Last year, Congress enacted and the President signed into law a provision stating that contractors operating in contingency operations would potentially fall under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). Is it your view that any illegal actions by private security

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contractors in Iraq would be punishable under the UCMJ? If not, under what legal process would they be held accountable?

3) More than 13,000 private security contractors have been reported wounded in Iraq and reports suggest that many suffer from the same challenges that many of our soldiers, including post-traumatic stress disorder, once they return home. What steps are their contracting firms taking to ensure long term care for employees that require it?

4) Lastly, I am concerned about the impact of this incident – and similar incidents – on our overall effort to end the war in Iraq. Has the Department of Defense conducted an analysis of the consequences of turning over such armed functions in a war zone to contractors outside the chain of command, and whether this outsourcing is actually hurting, rather than helping, our counter-insurgency efforts, especially in winning local hearts and minds?

I look forward to your prompt responses to these questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barack Obama", written in a cursive, flowing style.

Barack Obama
United States Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 17, 2007

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Gates:

As you know, in many cases, members of the National Guard and Reserves are required to serve for 730 days in order to receive the level of educational benefits afforded to their active duty counterparts. However, according to recent news accounts, a number of returning service members have discovered that they will not receive these benefits either because they served a few days less than 730 days, or because their service orders were issued for a few days less than 730 days.

I believe that these members of the National Guard and Reserves are being unfairly treated, and I ask that you review the prevalence of such cases, exercise some flexibility and, where appropriate, grant waivers from this service requirement for educational benefits. I am particularly interested to receive from the Department an accounting of orders issued to Illinois members serving in the Guard and Reserves to determine whether any have fallen into this same predicament.

This problem is just one challenge presented by the complexity of the current maze of educational benefits and the varying eligibility requirements facing our returning service members. Even as Congress works to update these benefits, slash red tape, and ensure fairness and equity for our service members, I would ask that you respond to these interim questions:

- What statutory authority, if any, does the Department of Defense currently have to provide waivers for those cases in which members of the Guard or Reserves have fulfilled their commitment to serve our nation but have fallen short of receiving benefits that are due to their active duty counterparts?
- What plans are underway to review orders issued since 9/11 to Guard members and Reservists in other states, including Illinois, to determine how widespread this problem is, and does the Pentagon plan to provide waivers for these cases? If so, what would be the military's threshold for time served in order to grant the more generous educational benefit to members of the Guard and Reserves until the law can be revised?

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- What legislative changes would the Department recommend to correct the inequities in the eligibility criteria for educational benefits for our service members? For example, would the Department support revising the applicable statute so that our members of the National Guard and Reserves could use their educational benefits upon separation, as their active duty counterparts can?

While there are different views of the war in our country, I know there is no disagreement about the tremendous sacrifice being made by the men and women who are serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. They have performed valiantly under exceedingly difficult circumstances. They have done everything that we have asked of them. And at a minimum, we owe them educational benefits that are accessible and commensurate with their noble service.

For that reason, I ask that you review the prevalence of cases of Guard and Reserve members who have fallen a few days short of receiving the educational benefits they deserve, exercise some degree of flexibility in addressing these cases and, wherever appropriate, I ask that you grant waivers from this service requirement. Thank you for your consideration to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Barack Obama', with a stylized 'B' and 'O'.

Barack Obama
United States Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 23, 2007

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Gates:

We are writing to request a full accounting from the Department of Defense on the number of psychological injuries sustained by service members since October 2001 and how the military reports on and invests in treating these less visible psychological injuries. Recent media accounts indicate that the number of service members seeking care for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) from the Veterans Administration (VA) jumped 70% over a 12-month period, or an increase of some 20,000 cases. In addition, reports of the total number of cases of PTSD treatment at the VA since 2001 – 50,000 cases – far exceed the number of wounded documented by the Pentagon.

While the literature suggests that symptoms of psychological injuries such as PTSD often surface after the initial trauma, these reported numbers not only underscore the increase in demand for mental health resources among our veterans, but suggest that many of our brave active duty service members are sustaining less visible psychological injuries at a time when the military faces a severe shortage of behavioral health personnel. As a result, many of our warriors may lack access to care just at a time when early treatment could be beneficial. In light of the fact that mental health care is now the second largest area of VA treatment sought by Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, it is incumbent on the military to ensure it is providing adequate treatment before our warriors ever separate from service. Especially in combat theaters, where recent reports also suggest a spike in suicides, we must ensure service members facing the stress of combat operations have access to resources and care for psychological injuries.

For these reasons, we ask that you provide the following information:

- What is the total number of cases of PTSD among active duty service members documented by each military department since October 2001? Please distinguish between those cases that were diagnosed in and out of a combat theater. Is this number reported in the Pentagon's regular compilation of wounded/injured figures, whether or not cases require a medical evacuation? Of this number, how many received treatment from a mental health professional?

OSD 16506-07



10/24/2007 11:25:37 AM

- What is the total number of other reported psychological injuries documented by each military department since October 2001? Please distinguish between those cases that were diagnosed in and out of a combat theater. Is this number reported in the Pentagon's regular compilation of wounded/injured figures, whether or not cases require a medical evacuation? Of this number, how many received treatment from a mental health professional?
- What procedures and referral mechanisms are in place in each military department for a service member who may want to seek counseling in a combat theater? How are service members currently trained to identify symptoms of combat stress?
- What is the approximate number of mental health staff, differentiated by specialty, deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan, by calendar quarter and military department, since October 2001? Of this number, on average how many are embedded with units in forward operating areas?
- What is the number of mental health staff, differentiated by specialty, for each major mobilization and demobilization Army and Marine Corps site? Please provide the number of military personnel assigned to each of these installations.
- What incentives are in place, or being considered, to attract additional behavioral health specialists, differentiated by specialty?
- For Fiscal Year 2002 through 2007, what has been the total annual expenditure, by quarter and military department, on mental health care for active duty service members? Of these totals, how much was expended for staffing, both for military personnel and private contractors?

Caring for the mental health of our service members should be as important as caring for their physical wounds. Thank you for providing this information to our offices by November 13, 2007.

Sincerely,



Barack Obama
United States Senator



Christopher S. Bond
United States Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 19, 2007

Honorable Robert Wilkie
Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Honorable Wilkie,

My constituent, (b)(6) contacted my office concerning an issue with the Department of Labor. Enclosed you will find information surrounding her case.

Your assistance in addressing this matter is greatly appreciated. Jamia Porter, one of my staff members, is in contact with (b)(6) and will apprise her of your findings. If you have any questions surrounding this matter or require further information, please contact Jamia at (217) 492-5089.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Barack Obama
United States Senator

607 East Adams, Suite 1520
Springfield, IL 62701
(217) 492-5089

BO/lrs

WASHINGTON OFFICE
713 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
OFFICE (202) 224-2854
FAX (202) 228-4260

CHICAGO OFFICE
230 S. DEARBORN
SUITE 3900
CHICAGO, IL 60604
OFFICE (312) 886-3506
FAX (312) 886-3514

SPRINGFIELD OFFICE
607 EAST ADAMS
SUITE 1520
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62701
OFFICE (217) 492-5089
FAX (217) 492-5099

MAHON OFFICE
701 NORTH C
MARION,
OFFICE (618)
FAX (618)

MOBILE OFFICE

OSD 00105-08



1/3/2008 2:24:46 PM

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:

HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR AND PENSIONS

HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

FOREIGN RELATIONS

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Department of Defense
Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs
Hon. Robert Wilkie
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Hon. Robert Wilkie,

My constituent, (b)(6) contacted my office concerning an issue with her family now serving in Iraq. Enclosed you will find information surrounding her concern.

Your assistance in addressing this matter is greatly appreciated. Jamia Porter, one of my staff members, is in contact with (b)(6) and will apprise her of your findings. If you have any questions surrounding this matter or require further information, please contact Jamia at (217) 492-5089.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Barack Obama
United States Senator

607 East Adams St.
Suite 1520
Springfield, IL 62701
(217) 492-5089

BO/-

OSD 18800-07



12/3/2007 10:11:09 AM

WASHINGTON OFFICE
713 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
OFFICE (202) 224-2954
FAX (202) 228-4260

CHICAGO OFFICE
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FAX (312) 886-3614

SPRINGFIELD OFFICE
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SUITE 1520
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OFFICE (217) 492-5089
FAX (217) 492-5089

MARION OFFICE
701 NORTH COURT STREET
MARION, IL 62959
OFFICE (618) 997-2402
FAX (618) 997-2850

MOLINE OFFICE
1911 52ND AVENUE
MOLINE, IL 61265
OFFICE (309) 736-1217
FAX (309) 736-1233

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 14, 2007

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

We are concerned over reports that members of our Armed Forces with underlying mental health conditions are not receiving balanced, fair, and impartial reviews when facing judicial punishment and administrative discharge for engaging in misconduct that could be related to their conditions.

We understand and support the necessity of maintaining good order and discipline in the military. At the same time, we are concerned that the decision to prosecute a service member with serious mental health issues may, in some cases, be carried out without appropriate consideration of recommendations made by uniformed mental health providers. As such, we ask you to promptly review guidelines for the administrative handling of such complex cases.

On December 2, 2007, *The Washington Post* ran a story entitled "A Soldier's Officer" that clearly illustrates our concerns. The piece details the ordeal of Army First Lieutenant Elizabeth Whiteside, who according to available reports, served honorably at both Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC) and in Iraq before experiencing severe mental health symptoms and attempting suicide. During her apparent suicide attempt, Lt. Whiteside threatened a number of her fellow service members, and as a result, we understand the Army is currently deciding whether to pursue a court-martial against her.

What we find particularly troubling about this case is that military commanders with no medical training derided the documented medical opinions as to Lt. Whiteside's mental condition and their bearing on the case. Colonel Terrence J. McKenrick, commander of the Warrior Transition Brigade at Walter Reed, charged that even though medical professionals had determined Lt. Whiteside had a "severe mental disease or defect, she knowingly assaulted and threatened others and injured herself." Another commander wrote that Lt. Whiteside's "defense that she suffers from a mental disease excusing her actions is just that...an excuse; an excuse to distract from choices and decisions made by Lt. Whiteside." These statements are contrary to the apparent recommendations of Lt. Whiteside's battalion commander in Iraq that disciplinary actions not be taken, and show a callous disregard for the diagnosis of qualified psychiatrists at WRAMC, who found that Lt. Whiteside suffered from a "severe major depressive disorder and a personality disorder" and "disassociation with reality."

OSD 19777-07



12/21/2007 11:19:12 AM

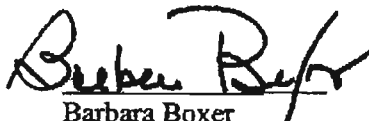
We believe that service members should be held accountable for their actions, and we recognize that the Manual for Courts-Martial provides procedures for handling mental health issues in judicial proceedings. However, this case highlights the need for the Department to review its administrative procedures and training programs to ensure that commanders give full and fair consideration of the recommendations made by trained mental health providers *before* initiating disciplinary actions against soldiers suffering from mental diseases.

Additionally, as Senators who have worked extensively to improve mental health care services for our armed forces, we find it unacceptable that officers with no medical training—who are required by law to protect the impartiality of the military justice process—would make dismissive statements regarding Lt. Whiteside's mental health condition. These comments only undermine respect for the mental health profession and increase the stigma associated with seeking mental health care.

According to the Congressionally-mandated report of the Department of Defense Task Force on Mental Health, "every military leader bears responsibility for addressing stigma; leaders who fail to do so reduce the effectiveness of the service members they lead." The Department is best served by ending policies that discriminate against service-members who suffer from mental health problems and working to eliminate the stigma that prevents too many from seeking care. That is why we strongly urge you to ensure that the recommendations of qualified medical professionals play a clearly defined and important role in proceedings to discharge or punish any service member with an underlying mental health condition.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,



Barbara Boxer
United States Senator



Christopher S. Bond
United States Senator



Barack Obama
United States Senator



John F. Kerry
United States Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 11, 2008

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-1400

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am deeply troubled by news reports that Blackwater Worldwide dispersed CS gas, a riot control substance, in an intersection populated by U.S. military personnel and Iraqi civilians in 2005.

Press reports indicate the CS gas was dispersed by both a helicopter and an armored vehicle and that it temporarily blinded drivers, pedestrians, and at least 10 American soldiers operating the checkpoint. U.S. military personnel reportedly said that there were no signs of gunfire or other forms of violence at the checkpoint at the time the riot control agent was dispersed.

The seriousness of this incident, which appears to be part of a pattern of misconduct by Blackwater over the last several years, emphasizes yet again the need to address serious questions about the role and oversight of contractors operating in Iraq and the extent to which their conduct could be jeopardizing our military's efforts to bring this war to a responsible end. Accordingly, I ask that you respond to the following questions:

1. Did the Department of Defense conduct an investigation of this incident, and if so, what were the results? Was Blackwater authorized to carry and use CS gas or any other riot control agent?
2. What are the rules of engagement governing the use of riot control agents in Iraq by U.S. military personnel and contractors? Who in the U.S. government can authorize the use of riot control agents in Iraq? How many times have they been used in Iraq by U.S. military personnel or contractors, and what were the circumstances?
3. What were the effects of the riot control agent, which can cause a severe burning sensation in the eyes, difficulty breathing, and in some cases nausea and vomiting, on U.S. military personnel and Iraqi civilians who were exposed in this incident?

OSD 00838-08

I look forward to your prompt responses to these questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barack Obama', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Barack Obama
United States Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 11, 2008

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-1400

Dear Secretary Gates:

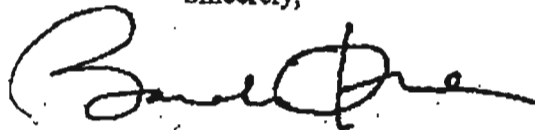
I am troubled by news reports that the U.S. Army suppressed an unclassified study of the planning for postwar Iraq prepared by the RAND Corporation because it was critical of the White House, the Department of Defense, and other government agencies.

Press reports indicate RAND submitted an unclassified version of the report titled "Rebuilding Iraq" in 2005 in the hope that its publication would contribute to the public debate about how best to prepare for future conflicts. The RAND study reportedly concluded that the Administration miscalculated the requirements for reconstruction and that "there was never an attempt to develop a single national plan that integrated humanitarian assistance, reconstruction, governance, infrastructure development, and postwar security." It also reportedly concluded that poor planning had "the inadvertent effort of strengthening the insurgency" because of the lack of security and basic services for Iraqis.

The conclusions of this report emphasize yet again the need for transparency in the management of postwar efforts in Iraq to ensure that our current approach is not jeopardizing our military's efforts to bring this war to a responsible end. Accordingly, I ask that the Department of Defense provide a copy of the unclassified report prepared by the RAND Corporation on "Rebuilding Iraq" to Congress. If the unclassified report will not be provided to Congress, I ask that you provide a justification for this decision.

I look forward to your prompt response. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Barack Obama
United States Senator

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OSD 01968-08



2/12/2008 7:45:05 AM

SECTION 2

LETTERS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO BARACK OBAMA



ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY
AND LOGISTICS

08-F-0811

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
3010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-3010

JUN 30 2005

The Honorable Barack Obama
United States Senate
713 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

This is in reply to your recent letter to the Secretary regarding the manner in which the department is meeting the requirements of the law governing the transparency of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process.

A list of the Department's closure and realignment recommendations was delivered to the Commission and Congress on May 13, 2005, three days in advance of the statutory May 16, 2005 deadline. Additionally, a summary of the selection process that resulted in the recommendations, including a justification for each recommendation, was included in Volume 1 of the Department's BRAC report. This information, required within seven days of delivery of the recommendations, was provided to the Commission and to the Congress and posted on the Department's BRAC website on May 13, 2005.

In accordance with the BRAC statute, the Department is committed to making all information used by the Secretary to prepare the recommendations available to the Commission and Congress. The Department is also committed to ensuring public access to that same information, unless the nature of the information is such that its public release would cause serious damage to national security. To that end, in addition to the Department's initial submission and to further support the Commission's and the public's understanding of the Department's recommendations, the Department has made all information used by the Secretary to prepare the recommendations available to the Commission and Congress, specifically, as follows:

- The classified force structure plan (Volume 2);
- Reports by the Military Departments and the Joint Cross Service Groups (Volumes 3 through 12), including, among other things, capacity and military value analysis;
- Recommendation binders containing the Department's analysis of each final recommendation against all eight selection criteria;



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- Analysis of scenarios or candidate recommendations that did not become final recommendations;
- Cost of Base Realignment Action (COBRA) Model with static data;
- Economic Impact Model, including data;
- Environmental Impact data and analysis;
- Community infrastructure data and analysis;
- Installation imagery of bases to be visited;
- Testimony to the Commission by senior DoD officials;
- Minutes of all deliberations, including attachments of all documents considered;
- Policy memoranda and guidance documents;
- Full volume of data collected (BRAC databases and scenario data calls and responses);
- Assorted internal administrative memoranda regarding preparation of recommendations, including regular status updates; and
- Reports or written assessments received from the Red Team during the preparation of the recommendations.

With the exception of that which is classified (less than 2 percent of all BRAC information), the Department has also made the above information available to the general public through its website (www.defenselink.mil/brac/).

Thank you again for the opportunity to bring you up to date on this matter. A similar response has been sent to all signatories of your letter. Please let me know if I may be of further assistance as we go forward.

Sincerely,



Kenneth J. Krieg



ACQUISITION
TECHNOLOGY
AND LOGISTICS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
3000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3000

OCT 26 2005

The Honorable Barack Obama
United States Senate
713 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

This is in response of your letter to President George W. Bush regarding the impact of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process on Illinois military installations. I am responding on his behalf.

As you know, the Department of Defense conducted a comprehensive review of installation infrastructure within the statutory authority provided by Congress. The Secretary of Defense forwarded his recommendations to the 2005 BRAC Commission on May 13, 2005. Please be assured that the Department's recommendations resulted from a thorough analysis of all military installations in the United States and Territories on an equal footing, with military value as the primary consideration.

The Commission forwarded its report and recommendations to the President on September 8, 2005. On September 15, 2005, the President approved the Commission's recommendations and forwarded its report to Congress. If Congress does not enact a joint resolution disapproving the report before the earlier of 45 days after transmittal (not counting periods when either house is adjourned for more than three days certain), or its adjournment *sine die* for the session, the Department is required to close or realign all installations recommended for closure and realignment. A similar reply has been sent to the other signatories of your letter.

Sincerely,

Philip W. Grone
Deputy Under Secretary of Defense
(Installation and Environment)



7



ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY
AND LOGISTICS

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3010

SEP 22 2006

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The Honorable Barack Obama
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

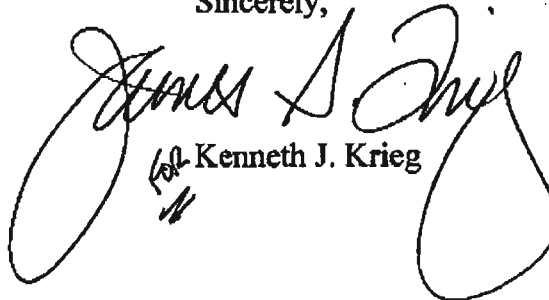
Dear Senator Obama:

This is in response to your letter to Secretary Rumsfeld regarding the Department's response to section 358 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (P.L. 109-163).

The Windmill Farm report is at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for interagency review and coordination. Upon approval from OMB, the report will be submitted to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives. The report discusses various technologies that could mitigate any adverse effects, that were identified, on military operations.

A similar letter to this is being sent to Senator Durbin.

Sincerely,


/s/ Kenneth J. Krieg



R 14080-06

(7 Sep 06)

(4)



ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY
AND LOGISTICS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
3000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3000

OCT 25 2006

The Honorable Barack Obama
United States Senate
230 S. Dearborn, Suite 3900
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Senator Obama:

This is in response to your letter dated 3 October 2006 concerning your constituent, Mr. Richard Brown of Schreck Wholesale Inc.

Mr. Brown's letter seems to say that his firm has been a subcontractor, but not a prime contractor, to the Federal Government. If so, his company may not be registered on our "centralized contractors registration" (CCR) system. Firms that are not registered cannot receive Department of Defense (DoD) contracts. The CCR (www.ccr.gov) is the Federal-Wide single point of entry into the Federal procurement process. Mr. Brown should register his company. Additional information on DoD marketing opportunities can be located on our website at www.acq.osd.mil/osbp.

Mr. Brown also states in his letter dated 27 September 2006, that he has been unsuccessful in establishing his company as a direct supplier to the Department of Defense and the General Services Administration (GSA). I suggest that Mr. Brown contact the following military headquarters exchange offices, which purchase resale merchandise that is stocked in post and base exchanges and the GSA Small Business Office listed below.

Army and Air Force Service
P. O. Box 650455
Dallas, TX 75265-0455
PH: 972-277-7103

Navy Exchange Service Command
Small Business Office
3280 Virginia Beach Boulevard
Virginia Beach, VA 23452-5724
PH: 804-631-3582

GSA Small Bus. Office
18th & F Streets, N.W.
Room 6029
Washington, DC 20405
PH: 202-501-1021

I hope that the above contact information will help your constituent in marketing his services to the Department of Defense.

Sincerely,

Frank Ramos, Director
Office of Small Business Programs



R
15788-06

(5)



LEGISLATIVE
AFFAIRS

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1300

08-F-0811

SEP 7 2007

The Honorable Barack Obama
713 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

Thank you for your letter to President Bush expressing concern about press reporting that al Qaeda had used the largely ungoverned territory along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border to restore its capabilities to pre-9/11 levels.

In his testimony before the House Armed Services Committee and House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence on July 25, 2007, Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence James Clapper stated we expect Pakistan to become much more active in addressing the security situation along its border with Afghanistan. I believe Secretary Clapper's testimony answers in depth the questions you raised to the President.

I have attached Secretary Clapper's testimony for your review and hope that it is of value to your inquiry.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Wilkie

Robert L. Wilkie
Assistant Secretary of Defense
(Legislative Affairs)

Attachments:
As stated

Afghanistan

L 1326307

(1 Sep 07)

(2)

08-F-0811

~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~
UNTIL RELEASED BY THE
HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
AND
THE HOUSE PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Statement by
The Honorable James R. Clapper, Jr.
Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence

Before the 110th Congress
Committee on Armed Services
And
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
United States House of Representatives

July 25, 2007

INTRODUCTION

Chairman Skelton, Chairman Reyes, Congressman Hunter, Congressman Hoekstra, distinguished members of the Committees: Thank you for your strong support for the brave men and women in uniform of the Department of Defense who so courageously serve the nation. And thank you for the opportunity to meet with you this morning to discuss the implications of the National Intelligence Estimate on the Terrorist Threat to the Homeland.

On September 20, 2001, the President, in his joint address to Congress and the American people, said, "We will direct every resource at our command -- every means of diplomacy, every tool of intelligence, every instrument of law enforcement, every financial influence, and every necessary weapon of war -- to the disruption and to the defeat of the global terror network...Americans should not expect one battle, but a lengthy campaign, unlike any other we have ever seen. It may include dramatic strikes, visible on TV, and covert operations, secret even in success."

Today, nearly six years later, there hasn't been a successful attack on our homeland. This is not for a lack of will on the part of our enemy. While al Qaeda and those inspired by its extremist ideology have carried out terrorist attacks in more than two dozen nations since 9/11, they have thus far not succeeded in attacking us in spite of their continued plotting. As the NIE states, our countermeasures "have helped disrupt known plots against the United States since 9/11." In addition, our offensive measures have deprived al Qaeda of its comfortable safe haven in Afghanistan in which it could train and indoctrinate large numbers of recruits and plan operations.

However, al Qaeda has, and will continue to, attempt visually dramatic mass casualty attacks here at home, and they will continue to attempt to acquire chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear materials, which they will not

hesitate to use. As the NIE makes clear, we face a resilient and resourceful enemy who will make every effort to protect and regenerate key elements of its capability to attack us and others. There can be no guarantee that he will not from time to time succeed in attacking us; indeed, over the course of a long war the potential is there.

The President's *National Strategy for Combating Terrorism* is clear on the need to fight our terrorist enemies on the battlefield and to promote freedom and human dignity as alternatives to the terrorists' perverse vision of oppression and totalitarian rule. We are applying all elements of our national power and influence -- military, diplomatic, financial, intelligence and law enforcement -- to destroy terrorist networks and confront radical ideology. As the President has said, the best long-term answer to violent extremism is to advance effective democracies.

The National Military Strategic Plan for the War on Terrorism spells out DoD's roles and objectives in this war. For the purpose of this hearing, I want to briefly describe implications of the NIE in three broad areas that are encompassed in this plan:

- Fighting the War on Terror;
- Defending the homeland; and
- Preparing to assist civil authorities in the response to a terrorist attack on the homeland.

FIGHTING THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR

Since al Qaeda attacked America nearly six years ago, the U.S. military has been continuously at war, but fighting a conflict that has many characteristics that are markedly different from wars of the past. In this war, our nation's armed forces have been tasked with removing hostile regimes in Iraq and Afghanistan that were sponsors of terrorism. In Afghanistan, a regime that gave sanctuary and

support to al Qaeda as they planned the 9/11 attacks has come to an end. And in Iraq, we removed a cruel dictator who harbored terrorists, paid the families of Palestinian suicide bombers, invaded his neighbors, defied the UN Security Council, and pursued and used weapons of mass destruction. Initially quick military successes in both countries has led to protracted stability and reconstruction campaigns against brutal and adaptive insurgencies.

In other parts of the war, however, the enemies we face are not nation-states but rather dispersed non-state networks. In many cases, actions must occur on many continents in countries with which the United States is not at war. Unlike the image many have of war, this struggle cannot be won by military force alone, or even principally. And it is a struggle that will likely last for years to come.

In this war, like in any other major conflict, we have to expect that there will be reverses as well as successes. The enemy will react and adapt to what we do and search out new opportunities, tactics, methods and weapons. A war is not an engineering project, in which all the tasks and challenges can be laid out ahead of time and accomplished according to a pre-determined schedule. As the troops say, "the enemy gets a vote."

The NIE highlights one such way in which the enemy has adapted: in response to its loss of Afghanistan: it has reconstituted some of its command and support network in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

This is a wild and remote area over which the government of Pakistan (and the British before them) has never fully gained control. President Musharraf has tried various approaches to dealing with this problem, and has lost about 500 personnel in the process of trying to establish law and order in the FATA. Musharraf has also tried political measures to eliminate al Qaeda and the Taliban from the FATA, including making a deal with the local tribal leaders in one of the

agencies under which they prevent the use of their territory as a launching pad for attacks into Afghanistan. This agreement, the North Waziristan Agreement, has not been successful, as the Pakistani government admits. While one could debate the wisdom of trying to conclude such agreements, I don't think it is fair to charge Musharraf with being ignorant of the problem or being unwilling to deal with it. If only because of their various attempts to assassinate him, and the loss of hundreds of his soldiers, he clearly understands the extremist threat.

Because of recent events, we expect President Musharraf to become much more active in addressing this problem. We have taken, and continue to take, a number of steps to help him, including:

- Funding, through the useful vehicle of Coalition Support Funds, much of the operating costs of Pakistani security forces conducting counter-terrorist operations in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas and elsewhere on the Pakistani border with Afghanistan,
- Providing 24 Bell helicopters and air assault training to Pakistani security forces so they can operate rapidly and effectively in the FATA and other remote regions,
- Providing key night vision capability, including equipment and training, to enable helicopter pilots of the Pakistani Army to pursue terrorists around the clock,
- Transferring \$110 million to the Department of State to support economic development in the FATA. This effort will help strike at the root causes of terrorism.
- Congress was instrumental in providing support for all of these measures, and its support for the authorization to transfer funds to the State Department was particularly helpful.

The recent Red Mosque crisis has heightened the extremist Islamist threat in Pakistan, and brought the struggle between extremists and the mainstream to the fore. The behavior of the extremists who had been holed up in the mosque highlighted the threat, and extremists based in the border areas have taken both the stepped up Pakistani Army presence in the FATA and along the border as well as the storming of the mosque as a pretext for resuming terrorist attacks on the Pakistani security forces.

At the same time, there are signs of a reaction against the extremists. On April 17, 2007, a convention attended by over 2,000 Pakistani religious figures in Peshawar, the capital of Pakistan's ethnically Pashtun North-West Frontier Province (which includes the FATA), proclaimed that suicide bombings were against Islam and condemned the forcible implementation and enforcement of Shari'a (Islamic Law). Also, internal disputes in Pakistan's tribal agency of South Waziristan recently erupted into conflict between Taliban-allied local tribes and al Qaeda-allied Central Asian groups, mostly Uzbeks. Uzbek forces offended local Pashtun groups by their criminal activity and insensitivity to local tribal customs, resulting in open warfare between locals and Central Asian fighters.

I've noted that the NIE describes a resilient and resourceful enemy who will adapt to circumstances. Yet a full assessment should also look at the enemy's weaknesses and vulnerabilities. At the strategic level, I think his greatest weakness is his tendency to overreach; perhaps not surprisingly, a movement that fosters a cult of violence and death has difficulty restraining itself when violence is not in its best interests.

In Iraq, for example, al Qaeda in Iraq's excessive violence — directed not only against Shi'a civilians but against fellow Sunnis, including insurgents, who failed to toe the al Qaeda line — has resulted in a backlash. Iraqis in Anbar province made common cause with U.S. and Iraqi security forces against al Qaeda's attempt to convince Iraq's Sunni Arabs that its objective of an Islamic

State of Iraq (ISI) is the only alternative to the Shia-dominated Iraqi Government. Even insurgent groups such as the Islamic Army in Iraq openly rejected the ISI and criticized them as a foreign terrorist group that has divided Iraqi society. Inspired by successes in the Anbar province, other provinces such as Diyala, northeast of Baghdad, mobilized against the ISI, who by then were on the run in Anbar.

Similarly, in Saudi Arabia, terrorist attacks in May 2003 energized the government, which has cracked down on salafi-jihadis and “deviants” who pervert Islam to preach violence. To confront extremist ideology within the Kingdom, the Saudis have been working with religious leaders to eliminate hatred-filled sermons, have passed new regulations in the charitable sector, increased vigilance in the financial sector, and have joined regional initiatives on anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing. Some wealthy Saudi donors still fund violent extremists around the world, but steps taken by the ruling family to tackle extremism and terrorism are an important success in the global war on terror.

In Jordan, to take another example, the November 2005 attack on a wedding in Amman turned public opinion against Islamist extremists in a dramatic fashion.

These al Qaeda missteps provide us with a strategic opportunity. In the Department of Defense, our main task in this regard is to help foreign governments counter extremist terrorism and to assist, where appropriate, in their efforts to build up their governmental, as well as security, capacity.

More generally, these missteps provide us an opportunity to wage what has been called the “battle of ideas.” Most Muslims do not embrace extremist views of an Osama bin Laden, but, for a long time, the debate within the Muslim world was rather one-sided. The challenge to the U.S. government is not to enter this debate directly, but to support mainstream voices within the Muslim world and to

resist the extremists' attempts to intimidate them. This aspect of the overall struggle has just begun.

Despite its resilience, al Qaeda is weaker today than it would have been if we had not taken strong action against them over the last five-and-a-half years. And we ourselves have become stronger and more capable. Because of the President's commitment to our homeland security, we have more and better intelligence, military and law enforcement resources, and the capability to confront an enemy who is weaker now than it would have been absent our aggressive effort to confront and defeat them.

DEFENDING THE HOMELAND

Here at home, it is the primary mission of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to prevent terrorist attacks within the United States, including stopping terrorists from coming across our borders, coming through our ports, or hijacking aircraft inside or outside the United States. The Attorney General leads our Nation's law enforcement effort to detect, prevent, and investigate terrorist activity within the United States. DoD's responsibility is to employ our warfighting capabilities, subject to constitutional and statutory authority, in a military defense of U.S. lives, property, and individual freedom.

To meet emerging threats to the homeland, the Department of Defense is postured to deter, defend against, and defeat threats to the United States in the air, maritime, and land domains.

In the air domain, DoD defends U.S. airspace and protects the nation's air approaches. The air domain is guarded, patrolled, and monitored by the bi-national U.S.-Canada North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD). Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, more than 42,000 fighter, aerial refueling, and airborne early warning sorties have been flown, while more than 2,000 air patrols have responded to actual incidents and suspicious flight

operations. We also have air defense alert fighters positioned throughout the United States and Canada that are capable of reaching major population centers and high-value infrastructure within minutes. The number of alert fighters can be increased or decreased according to emerging threat levels.

We continually adjust our posture in order to protect the National Capitol Region (NCR), the seat of the U.S. Government. The Department conducts irregular air patrols, maintains a dedicated 24-hours-a-day/7-days-a-week alert fighter response based at Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland, and has a dedicated ground missile defense system located to provide around-the-clock coverage for the National Capitol Region. In addition, in 2005, DoD provided the Visual Warning System (VWS) to warn wayward pilots to contact the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) air traffic controllers immediately and to depart from restricted airspace. We also detailed DoD liaison officers to serve at the Transportation Security Administration-hosted NCR Coordination Center (NCRCC) on a full-time basis and provided key interagency operations centers and the NCRCC access to DoD's classified conferencing capability, which is used for DoD coordination and decision making during the response to hostile domestic air threats.

In addition, DoD has deployed missile interceptors at Fort Greeley, Alaska, and Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, to protect the U.S. homeland from ballistic missile attack even as system development, testing, and fielding continue.

The maritime domain – including international waters, the maritime approaches to the United States, our territorial seas, and other U.S. navigable waters – is guarded by a highly effective partnership between the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Coast Guard. The U.S. Navy defends the sea approaches to the United States and works with the U.S. Coast Guard to patrol international waters and our territorial seas.

Additionally, in multiple theaters in the global war on terror, forward-deployed U.S. Navy assets work with other agencies to identify, track, and intercept threats before they threaten the United States.

On the land domain, in addition to general purpose forces, which can be called upon at any time, DoD has numerous assets ready to directly defend the U.S. homeland and to assist civil authorities:

- Quick Reaction Forces and Rapid Reaction Forces, highly trained U.S. Army and U.S. Marine Corps units, are postured to respond to a wide range of potential threats to the U.S. homeland, including critical infrastructure protection.
- Joint Force Headquarters National Capital Region, based at Fort McNair in Washington, DC, is responsible for land homeland defense, civil support, and consequence management in the National Capital Region.
- Joint Task Force North (JTF-N), headquartered at Fort Bliss, Texas, supports counterdrug, counterterrorism, and other operations to counter transnational threats.
- Joint Task Force Alaska, based at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, is responsible for land homeland defense and civil support operations in Alaska, and Joint Task Force Homeland Defense, based at Fort Shafter, Hawaii, has these responsibilities in Hawaii and U.S. territories, possessions, and protectorates in the Pacific.

PREPARING TO ASSIST CIVIL AUTHORITIES IN THE RESPONSE TO A TERRORIST ATTACK

Despite all of this, we realize that the enemy only has to be right once, while we must be right every day, all the time. The dark talent of the extremists

today is, as President Bush has said, to combine "new technologies and old hatreds." Their ability to tap into global communications systems turns modern advances against us and turns local conflicts into problems potentially of much wider concern. The interest they have shown in weapons of mass destruction is real and needs to be taken seriously. While the most likely al Qaeda attack method is the use of conventional explosives, intelligence reports and public pronouncements continue to indicate that al Qaeda and other groups are attempting to acquire weapons of mass destruction. And, unlike our enemies during the Cold War, rational nation-states who considered weapons of mass destruction "weapons of last resort," our terrorist enemy today considers such weapons "weapons of first choice." Whether al Qaeda or other transnational terrorists develop weapons of mass destruction or acquire them from rogue nation-states, we can be certain that they will use such weapons against the United States at their first opportunity, especially, if they can, on American soil to kill our citizens, destroy our property, disrupt our economy, and attempt to break our national will to resist their extremist objectives.

The first line of defense against a terrorist weapon of mass destruction attack is the War on Terror, which I have already addressed, and international efforts such as the Proliferation Security Initiative, 80 nations working together to stop shipments of materials related to weapons of mass destruction on land, at sea, and in the air.

Still, we must be prepared for the unthinkable even if such an event would be unacceptable.

Here at home, the Department of Homeland Security is responsible for the coordinated U.S. national effort to prepare for, prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from terrorist weapons of mass destruction attacks. If a weapons of mass destruction attack should occur within the United States, the Department of Defense (DoD), at the direction of the President or the Secretary of Defense, as

appropriate and consistent with the law and the imperative to maintain military readiness, will provide critical weapons of mass destruction consequence management support to civil authorities as part of the comprehensive national response to a weapons of mass destruction attack.

With few exceptions, DoD's consequence management capabilities are designed for the wartime protection of DoD's personnel and facilities. With the exception of a dedicated command and control element (Joint Task Force Civil Support) and National Guard Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Teams, DoD relies on dual-capability forces to support civil authorities in domestic CBRNE consequence management. In accordance with the 2005 Strategy for Homeland Defense and Civil Support, DoD "will be prepared to provide forces and capabilities in support of domestic CBRNE consequence management, with an emphasis on preparing for multiple, simultaneous mass casualty incidents."

Military response forces include:

- National Guard Weapons of Mass Destruction - Civil Support Teams (WMD-CSTs). Consisting of 22 high-skilled, full-time members of the Army and Air National Guard who are federally resourced, trained, and certified, and operate under the command and control of a State governor (Title 32, U.S. Code), the WMD-CSTs support civil authorities at a CBRNE incident site by identifying WMD agents/substances, assessing current and projected consequences, advising on effective response measures, and assisting with appropriate requests for State and Federal support. Section 1403 of the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107-314) authorized 55 WMD-CSTs and required DoD to ensure that of these 55 teams there is at least one team established in each State and territory. Currently, 52 of the authorized 55 WMD-CSTs have been certified by the Secretary of

Defense. The remaining three teams, in Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, are expected to be certified in Fiscal Year 2008.

- National Guard Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and High-Yield Explosive (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Packages (CERFPs). The CERFPs are task-organized units with combat support and service support mission essential tasks that, in conjunction with WMD-CSTs, assist local, State, and Federal authorities in CBRNE consequence management (e.g., casualty search and extraction, medical triage, casualty decontamination, and emergency medical treatment). CERFPs are designed to fill the 6-72 hour gap in capabilities between the first response and the Federal response following a CBRNE incident. There are currently 17 CERFPs (California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Washington, Virginia, and West Virginia), of which 12 are trained and ready to respond to CBRNE incidents in each of the 10 FEMA regions.
- Joint Task Force Civil Support (JTF-CS). JTF-CS, headquartered at Fort Monroe, Virginia, and its components, Joint Task Force Consequence Management East (headquartered at Fort Gillem, Georgia) and Joint Task Force Consequence Management West (headquartered at Fort Sam Houston, Texas), is a deployable, standing task force of 160 assigned military personnel led by a two-star Army National Guard general officer serving on active duty, who is under the command of the U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) commander. The mission of JTF-CS is to deploy, when directed, to a CBRNE incident site to exercise

command and control of assigned Federal military forces to support civil authorities.

- U.S. Marine Corps Chemical-Biological Incident Response Force (CBIRF). The CBIRF, which consists of 117 personnel, 21 vehicles and necessary equipment, and follow-on forces of 200 additional personnel and 22 additional vehicles and equipment, is a deployable force capable of responding to a CBRNE incident in support of local, State, or Federal authorities and designated combatant commanders' consequence management operations by providing capabilities for agent detection and identification; casualty search and rescue; personnel decontamination; emergency medical care; and stabilization of contaminated personnel.
- DoD Explosive Ordnance Disposal Teams, which can provide assistance to detect, identify, render safe, and dispose of unexploded ordnance such as improvised explosive devices and CBRNE weapons.
- U.S. Army Technical Escort Units (TEUs). The TEUs' mission is to provide a worldwide response for escorting, rendering safe, disposing, sampling, verifying, mitigating, and identifying weaponized and non-weaponized chemical, biological, and other hazardous materials. One TEU company supports the National Capital Response Force.
- CBRNE Consequence Management Response Forces (CCMRF). The CCMRF includes elements of all of these capabilities and can be *quickly tailored to provide a coordinated response to specific CBRNE incidents*. The CCMRF are Title 10, U.S. Code, joint forces capable of responding to a wide range of CBRNE attacks

against the American people with a wide range of services, including decontamination and security of a contaminated site or area; medical triage, treatment, and care; and transportation and logistical support.

DoD's CBRNE consequence management capabilities include specialized agent detection, identification, and dispersion modeling systems as well as casualty extraction and mass decontamination abilities. DoD also can provide emergency medical support such as equipment, mobile hospitals, aeromedical evacuation, medical personnel, engineering support, and mortuary services.

To ensure the readiness of these forces and to identify gaps and potential weaknesses within each agency and across agencies in terrorist attacks, particularly multiple, simultaneous attacks, DoD holds or participates in at least four major interagency exercises per year. These exercises support the DHS National Homeland Security Exercise Program established by Homeland Security Presidential Directive-8 (HSPD-8), "National Preparedness" (December 17, 2003). In the past these have included UNIFIED DEFENSE (2003, 2004), DETERMINED PROMISE (2003, 2004), ARDENT SENTRY (2005, 2006, and 2007), DILIGENT ENDEAVOR (2003), DINGO KING (2005), DILIGENT WARRIOR (2004), NORTHERN EDGE (2003), SCARLET SHIELD (2004), DARK PORTAL (2004), CYBER STORM (2006), and TOP OFFICIALS (TOPOFF) II and III (2003, 2005). All recent scenarios for DoD and interagency exercises have included the challenge of countering and responding to CBRNE threats such as radiological dispersion devices in the northeast and western United States, improvised nuclear device attacks in the western US, nuclear weapon and recovery in the western and mid-western United States, chemical and improvised explosive device attacks on the East Coast, and biological attacks in the Northeast, Midwest, and Pacific Northwest.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, to those responsible for protecting the homeland from al Qaeda and the threat of terrorism, the information in the National Intelligence Estimate is not new; it reinforces the seriousness of the terrorist threat against the homeland and confirms much of what the President has been saying since 9/11. We are facing a persistent terrorist enemy led by al Qaeda that remains driven and intent on attacking the homeland, and that continues to adapt and improve its capabilities.

Our greatly increased worldwide counterterrorism efforts since 9/11 have constrained the ability of al Qaeda to attack the U.S. again and have led terrorist groups to view the homeland as a harder target to strike than it was on 9/11.

We must remember terrorism is not a threat we face alone. It is a threat faced by our allies around the world -- in London, in Bali, Madrid, Riyadh and Islamabad. We cannot win this war alone; we need our allies to win. They fight the threat just as we do. And just as our heroes on the battlefields around the world are injured and die in the fight, our allies fight and die, as well.

As President Roosevelt stated in his Pearl Harbor Speech on December 8, 1941, "There is no blinking at the fact that our people, our territory and our interests are in grave danger. With confidence in our armed forces - with the unbounding determination of our people - we will gain the inevitable triumph."



THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
2000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-2000

08-F-0811

JAN 10 2006

The Honorable Barack Obama
713 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

Thank you for conveying your concerns to Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld regarding the use of white phosphorous munitions in combat operations. He has asked me to reply.

As a lawful, non-chemical conventional munition, white phosphorus munitions are used as obscurants (i.e., as smoke screens), for target marking, or to help to flush enemy forces out of protected positions.

U.S. forces always consider target vulnerability and location, available munitions, risk to the civilian population, and risk to friendly forces in determining how a target will be attacked. Suggestions that U.S. forces targeted civilians with these weapons are simply wrong. In comparison, former regime elements, foreign terrorists, and other like-minded criminals operating in Iraq have made a practice of using civilians as human shields and of conducting suicide bomb attacks against Iraqi civilians.

Coalition forces will continue to use the full array of lawful, conventional weapons against legitimate targets, as well as do everything possible to keep civilians out of harm's way.

Sincerely,

Eric S. Edelman

370.64



R OSD 24153-05

(1 Dec 05)

(2)

08-F-0811



HOMELAND
DEFENSE

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
2600 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-2600

DEC 22 2005

The Honorable Barack Obama
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

I am writing in response to your September 28, 2005, letter to Secretary Rumsfeld regarding the provision of resources and guidance to the States that will ensure that all National Guard and Reserve members deployed to support Hurricanes Katrina and Rita relief efforts receive medical screenings at the conclusion of their deployment.

The Department of Defense (DoD) is committed to ensuring the safety and health of its personnel. To that end, on August 31, 2005, the U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) issued detailed Force Health Protection (FHP) guidance. For all "assigned and attached" personnel, including DoD civilians and contractors employed directly by DoD. The guidance detailed the health risks of deployment to the affected area, and called for FHP measures to be taken before, during, and after deployment.

National Guard personnel deployed in State Active Duty status were not "assigned or attached" to USNORTHCOM, and thus not subject to the USNORTHCOM guidance. Even after the status of National Guard personnel changed from State Active Duty to duty under Title 32, United States Code, they remained under the command and control of the State governors, and not subject to the USNORTHCOM guidance. However, this change in status did make these National Guard personnel eligible for military medical treatment.

Because of the potential health risks to responders, post-deployment prophylactic measures against known risks are essential, and post-deployment health assessments are appropriate and have been undertaken. DoD is making every effort to ensure that persons eligible for military medical treatment who responded to Hurricane Katrina receive appropriate medical care.

I am sending an identical letter to Senators Durbin and Leahy.

Thank you for this opportunity to address your concerns.

Sincerely,

Peter F. Verga

Peter F. Verga
Principal Deputy

1



HOMELAND DEFENSE
& AMERICAS' SECURITY AFFAIRS

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
2600 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2600

JUN 7 2007

The Honorable Barack Obama
United States Senate
713 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

This is in response to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request from your constituents for information on students at the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC).

The FOIA request that your constituents refer to was granted in part: All information requested was provided except for the names of individuals, which, in accordance with FOIA Exemption 6 (5 USC 552(b) (6)), were redacted to protect the personal privacy of the students. The decision was subsequently appealed by (b)(6) in September 2006, and the appeal was denied on February 1, 2007. The review found that the FOIA request was handled correctly in accordance with applicable law.

With regard to your constituents' concerns, a recent letter from the Chairman of the WHINSEC Board of Visitors is enclosed, which addresses similar concerns, and explains the role of the Board in reviewing WHINSEC's programs and activities, and the U.S. Government process for vetting prospective WHINSEC attendees.

Training in human rights, democratic values and respect for civilian control of the military is a central component of WHINSEC's curriculum and training programs. As detailed in the Secretary of Defense's Annual Report to Congress on WHINSEC's activities, WHINSEC supports U.S. human rights and democratization efforts in Latin America by helping to professionalize the military services of partner nations. The House Armed Services Committee unanimously approved language in support of WHINSEC and its mission in the House's annual defense authorization bill for this year.

WHINSEC holds an annual Open House for members of the public in November, and the Institute may be visited by arrangement throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Peter F. Verga

Peter F. Verga
Acting

Enclosure:
As stated



2



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000



NOV 21 2007

The Honorable Barack Obama
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Senator Obama:

Thank you for your letter of October 17, 2007, in which you asked Secretary of Defense Robert Gates to review the prevalence of cases where members of the National Guard and Reserve have fallen a few days short of serving the required time on active duty to qualify for educational assistance benefits under the Montgomery GI Bill. You further asked that he grant waivers from the service requirement where appropriate. Your letter also indicated that you are particularly interested in learning how many of the affected National Guard and Reserve members reside in Illinois.

The eligibility requirements for educational assistance are set forth in chapter 30 or title 38, United States Code (U.S.C.). The relevant provision provides for educational assistance for an individual "who serves in the Armed Forces and is discharged or released from active duty...for the convenience of the Government, if, in the case of an individual with an obligated period of service of two years, the individual completes not less than 20 months of continuous active duty under that period of obligated service." 38 U.S.C. § 3011(a)(1)(A)(ii)(II). There is no statutory authority to waive this requirement.

This unprecedented situation occurred as a result of the extension on active duty of the 1st of the 34th Brigade Combat Team (1/34 BCT) as part of the surge. The original mobilization orders for the 1/34 BCT specified a period of 545 days. Individual members of the brigade were mobilized on various dates. Based on their dates of mobilization and the projected date the brigade was scheduled to be demobilized, some members' orders were extended to 730 days when the brigade was extended on active duty, and some were extended for a lesser period. This disparity resulted from a desire to retain members involuntarily only as long as necessary. The unfortunate result of this well-intentioned desire is that the members with orders for the lesser period did not satisfy the eligibility requirements for the Montgomery GI Bill authorized in chapter 30 of title 38, United States Code – to have been obligated for a period of service of two years and to have served not less than 20 months of continuous active duty under that obligated period of service.

Secretary of the Army Geren is aggressively pursuing the most expeditious remedy available for all affected members. Because there is no statutory authority to waive the eligibility requirements, the Army will use the Army Board of Correction of



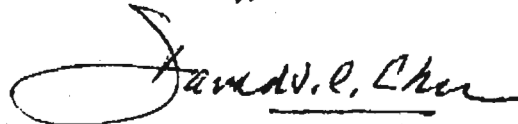
OSD 16323-09 (11)

Military Records (ABCMR) to amend orders of members of the 1/34th as warranted. This approach provides members of the 1/34th with the best available opportunity to have their orders amended to secure their eligibility for MGIB. I am pleased to report that the Army found no members of the National Guard or Army Reserve from Illinois who will require ABCMR action to qualify for MGIB benefits.

The Army has deployed a personnel team to assist members with applications to the ABCMR requesting that the board amend their orders to show an obligated period of active duty not to exceed 730 days. The ABCMR review of each application will be completed within 10 days of receipt. The intent is that all necessary actions will be completed well before the beginning of the January 2008 school term. Senior officials in the Army have met with their Department of Veterans Affairs counterparts to coordinate streamlined and expedited processing of applications across the departments. Additionally, my staff will work with the Army to determine if legislative language should be changed to more clearly define Reserve component qualification for MGIB benefits under contingency operations.

We will do what is necessary to ensure that our dedicated National Guard and Reserve members receive all benefits to which they are entitled. I thank you for your support of our efforts and for your interest in the patriots who serve in our Reserve components.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David S. C. Chu". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "C".

David S. C. Chu



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-4000

JAN 16 2008

The Honorable Barack Obama
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

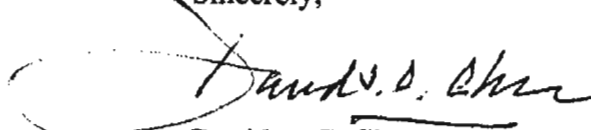
Dear Senator Obama:

This is in response to your December 14, 2007, joint letter with Senators Christopher Bond, Barbara Boxer, and John Kerry to the Secretary of Defense. You asked if members of the Armed Services are receiving fair and impartial reviews when facing judicial punishment and administrative discharge for engaging in misconduct that could be related to their medical or mental conditions. To illustrate your concerns, your letter cited the December 2, 2007, *Washington Post* article detailing Army First Lieutenant Elizabeth Whiteside's case.

We agree with your view that the judgment of medical practitioners plays a key role in proceedings of this kind, and will be reviewing our procedures to ensure this standard is maintained.

Our preliminary review indicates that the Post reporter was unaware of (or chose not to report) other elements of this case that would put matters in a different light. Moreover, as you appreciate, adjudication of some of the issues has proceeded since publication of the December 2nd article.

Sincerely,



David S. C. Chu



12



UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

The Honorable Barack Obama
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

FEB 5 2008

Dear Senator Obama:

Thank you for your letter to the President concerning the establishment of a special discharge review program and a temporary moratorium on the use of personality disorder discharges. The Department of Defense was asked to respond on behalf of the President.

The Department recognizes that the diagnosis of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) has improved with advances in medical knowledge of the disorders. Although we do not support a formal special discharge review program for veterans of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM or Operation ENDURING FREEDOM, the Department encourages veterans who may be diagnosed with PTSD or other mitigating disorders to request review of their separations through their respective Military Department Discharge Review Boards and Board for Correction of Military Records based on new or previously undeveloped information pertaining to their specific separation cases. This process has worked well, and we continue to work with the Military Departments and the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure the behavioral impacts of PTSD and TBI are understood and addressed.

The assertion that the diagnoses of war-related mental illnesses are overlooked in favor of the more convenient personality disorder diagnoses compelled a recent review of policy and practice. Throughout this review, neither discussions with senior DoD medical experts nor the data analyzed suggested that the Department misdiagnosed personality disorder in the face of TBI or PTSD. Although there is no empirical evidence that members are routinely misdiagnosed, the Department acknowledges that errors do occasionally occur. The Department is working to revise policies to require additional psychiatrist or PhD-level psychologist corroboration of diagnoses and assurances that any disabling mental health diagnoses have been ruled out prior to proceeding with a personality disorder separation. The Department separated 3,865 and 4,145 members for personality disorder in 2006 and 2007, respectively, of which 50 percent had less than one year of service and about 20 percent had deployed to a combat zone.

Thank you for your continued support and interest in the dedicated women and men of the Armed Forces who serve our great Nation.

Sincerely,

David S. C. Chu

13



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

OCT 11 2005

The Honorable Barack Obama
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

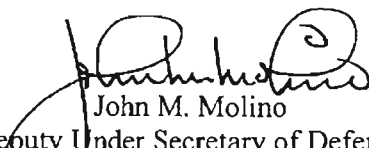
Thank you for your letter, dated July 26th, concerning the process of assigning casualty assistance officers to the next of kin of fallen Service members. Since the Department of Defense (DoD) policy for casualty assistance falls within my purview, your request was referred to me.

In each case in which a military member is declared deceased or missing, the Military Service concerned appoints a casualty assistance officer to advise and assist the primary next-of-kin. The assistance officer maintains contact with the next-of-kin to keep them informed on all matters related to the case, until the case has been resolved and all entitlements and benefits are received. There is no time limit on how long assistance will be provided. Because this is an open-ended commitment, it may be necessary on some occasions to change the assistance officer during the process. However, when this does happen, the new assistance officer is fully briefed on the requirements of the position as well as particulars of the family. The incoming and outgoing assistance officers will meet with the family together to review the still-remaining assistance requirements. The transfer of casualty assistance duties mostly occurs due to relocation of the next of kin. In these cases, coordination is conducted with the military unit closest to where the family will relocate to provide any necessary follow-on assistance.

The Department continues to explore ways to assist surviving family members whenever needed. One such change will require the Services, as part of the assistance process, to provide all family members a contact number at the Service Headquarters casualty office. By doing so, families will know that regardless of the day, week, month or year, they will always have someone to call for information or assistance.

I trust that this information proves useful to you.

Sincerely,


John M. Molino
Deputy Under Secretary of Defense
(Military Community and Family Policy)

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08-F-0811



RESERVE AFFAIRS

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1500 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1500

JUN 19 2007

The Honorable Barack Obama
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-2003

Dear Senator Obama:

Thank you for your May 8, 2007, letter to President Bush concerning National Guard equipment in the state of Illinois as well as the rest of the Nation. I want to assure you that the issues you raised are being addressed by the Department.

We work continuously with the leadership of the National Governor's Association on the whole range of issues affecting military personnel and equipment, including Guard matters and budgetary considerations. We will ensure that dialogue is continued.

Secretary Gates has recently directed the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, in coordination with the Department of Homeland Security, and in conjunction with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Military Departments, the Commander, U.S. Northern Command, and the Chief, National Guard Bureau to provide him recommendations regarding Department policy on programming and budgeting for civil support capabilities. Under Executive Order, a Council of Governors will be established to advise him and the Secretary of Homeland Security on homeland security issues, matters involving the National Guard of the various states, and other matters of mutual interest.

Reserve component equipping needs received very substantial funding in the President's FY 2008 budget request. We will review those needs again in the context of the FY 2009 request, reviewing and validating the states' equipment needs to ensure that they have access to the needed equipment to perform both overseas missions and respond to homeland requirements.

Sincerely,

T.F. Hall



①



SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON

FEB 23 2008

The Honorable Barack Obama
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

I have been asked to respond on behalf of Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates to your February 11, 2008 letter regarding media reports citing an independent assessment being prepared for the Army by the RAND Arroyo Center on prewar planning and occupation of Iraq.

You requested that the Department of Defense provide a copy of the unclassified report to Congress. We will provide the report to both the House and Senate Armed Services Committees.

You expressed concerns over the allegations that Army officials suppressed the report. I also find the allegations troubling and I am carefully reviewing the matter. So far, I have found no evidence to support the allegations.

This multiyear effort is rapidly nearing completion, the findings of which will be published in eight separate reports totaling over 3,000 pages. Six of the eight reports will be classified, including a classified executive summary that has not yet been written. We will provide all reports to Congressional defense committees as they are completed.

Sincerely,

Pate Geren

Copy

(11. Feb 08)

(5)

201968-08



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF LEGISLATIVE LIAISON
1600 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20310-1600

February 28, 2006

The Honorable Barack Obama
United States Senate
230 South Dearborn Street, Suite 3900
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Senator Obama:

I am acknowledging receipt of your letter on behalf of (b)(6) concerning
ATK Lake City Army Ammunition Plant's ammunition production.

Inquiry into this matter has been initiated. You will be further advised as soon as
information becomes available. If you have any questions about this inquiry, please
contact (b)(6) at (b)(2) and refer to the following case
number: 60211642.

Sincerely,

Michelle Y. Cronwell
Chief, Special Actions Branch
Congressional Inquiry Division

IR

02041-06

(4)



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF LEGISLATIVE LIAISON
1600 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20310-1200

March 30, 2005

2005 APR -1 AM 10:45

OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

The Honorable Barack Obama
United States Senator
230 S. Dearborn, Suite 3900
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Senator Obama:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of (b)(6) concerning the Defense of Department requesting that he repay a portion of his enlistment bonus.

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service has jurisdiction over matters pertaining to military pay, finance and accounting policy, and system support. As a courtesy, I have forwarded your inquiry to the Director, Defense Finance and Accounting Service, Attention: DFAS-HQ/CE, 1931 Jefferson Davis Highway, Crystal Mall #3, Room 416, Arlington, Virginia 22240-5291, for appropriate action. In the meantime, if assistance is needed, please contact the Congressional Section at (703) 607-5121.

(b)(6)

Congressional Actions Coordinator
Congressional Inquiry Division

200525-05



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF LEGISLATIVE LIAISON
1600 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20310-1700

April 7, 2005

2005 APR 12 AM 6:02

OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

321

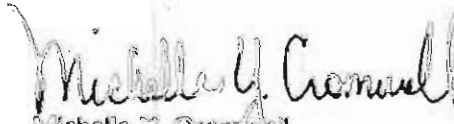
The Honorable Barack Obama
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

Thank you for your letter to the Honorable Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense, regarding the deployment of the 131st and 178th National Guard Units.

An inquiry into this matter has been initiated. You will be further advised as soon as the information is available. In the meantime, if you have further questions, please have your staff contact (b)(6) at (b)(2). Please refer to case number 50005338.

Sincerely,


Michelle Y. Cromwell
Chief, Special Actions Branch
Congressional Inquiry Division

(344205)

1R 06116-05



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF LEGISLATIVE LIAISON
1600 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20310-1600

August 8, 2005

The Honorable Barack Obama
United States Senator
230 S. Dearborn, Suite 3900
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Senator Obama:

This is in reply to your inquiry on behalf of (b)(6) concerning the new policy at Rock Island Arsenal prohibiting treatment of TRICARE Standard patients at the medical clinic.

The primary mission of the Rock Island Arsenal Medical Clinic is to provide medical care to enrolled Active Duty TRICARE members. Additionally, the clinic has the responsibility of providing the Occupational Health Services in support of the military and civilian government workforce. Medical care for all other military beneficiaries is on a space available basis only, as the available services in this clinic are limited.

While TRICARE Standard patients can be seen by the one physician in the clinic, access is limited due to other mission requirements. Therefore, to ensure continuity of care, it is advised that patients establish a relationship with a network provider. Beneficiaries have the option of obtaining a TRICARE affiliated physician in the community for their medical needs. It is more beneficial for (b)(6) to find and establish a relationship with a network provider in her area for herself and her family for continuity of care. The Rock Island Arsenal Medical Clinic will continue to have an available pharmacy for all TRICARE beneficiaries.

I trust this information is responsive to your concerns.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Congressional Coordinator
Congressional Inquiry Division

R 14454-05

(12)



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF LEGISLATIVE LIAISON
1600 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20310-1600

November 1, 2005

The Honorable Barack Obama
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter to the Honorable Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense, concerning the full funding of the Common Remotely Operated Weapons Station (CROWS) program.

Inquiry into this matter has been initiated. You will be further advised as soon as information becomes available. If you have any questions about this inquiry, please contact (b)(6) at (b)(2) and refer to the following case number: 51110187.

Sincerely,

Michelle Y. Cromwell
Chief, Special Actions Branch
Congressional Inquiry Division

15



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

OFFICE OF THE
DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF G-3
400 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20310-0400

2005 APR 26 PM 1:40

OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

April 19, 2005

The Honorable Barack Obama
United States Senate
713 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Obama,

Thank you for your recent inquiry on behalf of your constituents assigned to the 1st Battalion, 131st Infantry Regiment (1/131 IN), and 1st Battalion, 178th Infantry Regiment (1/178 IN), Illinois Army National Guard (IL ARNG). As you are aware, our Armed Forces are fully engaged around the world in the fight against terrorism and, although we have made tremendous progress, much work still remains in the Middle East. Your constituents' concerns over deployment predictability, tour lengths, the projected location of their unit, along with training and equipment quality afforded the Army Reserves and Army National Guard, collectively known as the Reserve Components, is appreciated.

The Army is committed to supporting the Combatant Commander's critical mission requirements in the Middle East. The Army Senior Leadership shares your concerns over providing a predictable environment for our Soldiers, as this is a factor that directly impacts recruiting and retention. Our Senior Leadership has been working with the Department of Defense to address this issue, and has come up with some solutions. The Army Reserve, for example, is developing plans for a mobilization and deployment cycle. Each unit in the Army Reserve will be placed in a cycle and will be notified that a specific year is designated as its "deployment" year, providing predictability for the Army Reservist. The Army National Guard is working on similar plans. The Active Component is presently engaged in Transformation, which is converting much of our force structure to modularized, self-contained units. This effort increases the number of Brigades readily available for deployment and allows greater predictability for the Active Component, while the inclusion of support forces in the Brigade structure reduces our reliance on the Reserve Components. The Reserve Components will soon follow in this initiative.

With respect to the length and location of current deployments, many of the mixed signals, I suspect, are coming from unofficial sources. Officially, current Army policy for the length of unit deployments in support of the Global War on Terror is 12 months "boots on the ground." To meet this goal, Reserve Component units are being mobilized for 18 months to allow sufficient time for train-up, in-processing, demobilization and use of accrued leave. As for deployment location, the overwhelming majority of unit commanders know the theater and area to which they are deploying. Occasionally, because of changing circumstances and requirements in theater, the exact location will shift, but not the theater or geographic area.

As for training and equipping Army forces, the Army has one standard regardless of status: Active, or Reserve Component. All deployed Army units are mutually dependent on security, and an imbalance of either equipment or training quality could place every Army unit at risk. The Senior Army Leadership realizes that any unit could be assigned to

R 06116-05

(10)

(344205)

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(2)

theater, and therefore, all Army personnel must be trained and equipped to the same standard to perform well as a team. Uniform training standards and standardized equipment allow different units within the Army to function as one massed fighting force, which is one of the keys contributing to the success of the American Soldier and the Army over the last several conflicts. Additionally, the Army Senior Leadership relies on the judgment of unit commanders, who determine equipment and training needs based upon an analysis of their assigned missions. Once communicated through the chain-of-command, Headquarters, Department of the Army monitors the requests on a daily basis to ensure all requirements are satisfied well before the unit deploys.

Our Nation asks its military personnel and their families to make enormous sacrifices in time of need, and your constituents' situations are clear examples. You may be assured their concerns and comments are fully understood. We also appreciate the contributions made by your constituents in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. We are also grateful for your continued support of the Global War on Terrorism.

Sincerely,
(b)(6)

Colonel, United States Army
Operations and Contingency
Plans Division



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
LAKE CITY ARMY AMMUNITION PLANT
INDEPENDENCE, MO 64081-1000

March 8, 2006

SJMLC-CO

Honorable Barack Obama
United States Senator
ATTN: Ms. Jennifer Mason
230 Dearborn Street
Suite 3900
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Honorable Senator Barack Obama,

This is in reference to your letter, December 15, 2005, with regard to an inquiry from your constituent, (b)(6)


In his letter to your office, (b)(6) indicates that he was unable to identify a contact for potential ammunition procurements at Lake City Army Ammunition Plant. Alliant Techsystems, Incorporated (ATK) is the plant's operating contractor. Inquiries regarding potential subcontracting opportunities need to be made with them directly. Questions regarding subcontracting opportunities may be directed to Mr. Larry Smith, e-mail: larry.smith@atk.com or, 816-796-7221.

(b)(6) also indicated a concern that ATK may be obtaining material from a foreign source over a proven domestic source. The Army contract with ATK requires compliance with the Buy American Act.

If you need more information contact (b)(6) U.S. Army Field Support Command, Congressional Liaison, email:

(b)(2) or, (b)(6)

Sincerely,


Thomas S. Schorr, Jr.
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding

R 02041-06 (5)



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
THIRD ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY CENTRAL
1801 HARDEE AVE SW
FORT MCPHERSON, GA 30830-1084

June 25, 2007

Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-1

The Honorable Barack Obama
United States Senator
607 East Adams Street, Suite 1520
Springfield, Illinois 62701

Dear Senator Obama:

Thank you for your recent letter to the Department of Defense on behalf of your constituent's concerns.

Captain (CPT) (b)(3):10 C-1 Battle CPT, Multi-National Corps-Iraq, stated Camp Victory and subordinate command post's were experiencing food shortages for a short time, however at no time was it down to half rations or passing out MRE's.

Thank you for your inquiry into this matter. This command stands ready to provide any further assistance required by your office.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Major, General Staff
Deputy Adjutant General

R 09820-07

11



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
COALITION FORCES LAND COMPONENT COMMAND
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES CENTRAL COMMAND
THIRD UNITED STATES ARMY
APO AE 09304

March 27, 2006

Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-1

The Honorable Barack Obama
United States Senator
713 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

Thank you for your recent letter to Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld concerning calling cards and the availability of drinks in the dining facility for your constituents serving in Iraq.

(b)(3); 10 USC §130b, (b)(6) Chief Programs, CJ1, Multi-National Corps-Iraq (MNC-I), stated Segovia, Inc. entered a two-year contract with Space and Naval Warfare Systems (SPAWAR) to provide long distance Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) calling cards to personnel deployed in Iraq on September 19, 2003; the contract expired on September 30, 2005. The new contract was awarded to M.C. Dean, Inc. (OPENBAND), which agreed to honor Segovia calling cards through December 31, 2005. Beginning on September 19, 2005, SPAWAR conducted a robust information campaign notified Segovia customers of the pending change and recommended that the customers disable the automatic recharge feature on their Segovia accounts no later than October 01, 2005. Despite a no refund clause, Segovia, Inc. has offered to exchange the current calling card held by Senator Obama's constituent for a stateside card, credited with the remaining balance. The point of contact for Segovia is Mr. Allen Bantz, (703) 621-6434.

The Government controls the placement of 50 AT&T owned Call Centers with over 1,200 phones throughout Iraq; these Call Centers receive no Government subsidies. Individual users are responsible for costs incurred during phone connections from these Call Centers. The most common means of payment is via AT&T Calling Cards. Fees can vary based upon the cost per unit on the card, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) has negotiated the lowest average cost per minute with AT&T for calling cards in theater (currently, \$0.19 per minute with a \$00 unit phone card to phones in the United States). These cards are available for purchase online and at most AAFES facilities in Iraq. Morale Welfare & Recreation (MWR) has also distributed over 100,000 donated AT&T calling cards in the last eight months. Additionally, the Government provides a link through the Defense Switching Network (DSN) telephonic lines for calls to US toll-free phone numbers. With this link, personnel can call from any DSN phone to a switch in Chicago, link to the AT&T Calling Card access number, and complete their call to any stateside location. The only charge the user incurs is from Chicago to the phoned location at stateside calling rates.

R 04483-06

⑥

Dining facilities in Iraq are typically operated by Kellogg-Brown and Root (KBR). The Government negotiates an annual Statement of Work (SOW) that identifies contract specifications and services. Name-brand drinks are commonly available in all dining facilities run by KBR and the cost is charged against the Government contract— not the Soldier. In the instance at FOB Sykes in north-west Iraq, there is no evidence that dining facility services were inappropriately curtailed in order to bolster AAFES sales or improperly deny personnel name-brand drinks. Soldiers are asked, on an honor system, to limit their personal consumption of these drinks to two per meal; it is fairly common for individuals to take considerably more than this, especially during periods of increased temperature.

Forward Operating Base Sykes is a remote location in north-western Iraq. Since Iraq is still a combat zone and travel can be hazardous, it is not uncommon for ground transportation to be delayed. These delays often affect the availability of convenience and sundry items, which are moved at a lower priority than mission essential material.

Since the hottest part of the year in Iraq coincides with normal year end budget constraints, it is not unreasonable to expect that the availability of some high-cost, dining facility items are curtailed to preclude financial loss. AAFES, on the other hand, is not impacted by year end budget constraints. They are able to provide name-brand drinks year round and the cost is charged to the end user.

Lastly, (b)(3);10 USC states, the command finds no merit in the constituent's complaint that U.S. companies are taking advantage of deployed personnel. Every effort is being made to provide quality products and services at a reasonable price under austere conditions.

Thank you for your inquiry into this matter. This command stands ready to provide any further assistance required by your office.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Lieutenant Colonel, General Staff
Adjutant General

**DEFENSE CONTRACT MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

6350 WALKER LANE, SUITE 300
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22310-3241

IN REPLY
REFER TO

DCMA-DSA

OCT 13 2006

Honorable Barack Obama
United States Senator
607 East Adams Street
Suite 1520
Springfield, IL 62701

Dear Senator Obama:

This is in response to your recent letter to the Department of Defense (DoD) on behalf of Mr. Levester Husband of Husband Manufacturing Company in Chicago. In his correspondence to your office, Mr. Husband writes that his company "has been removed from the process of bidding on items purchased by the Federal Government which we produce." Your inquiry was forwarded to the Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) headquarters for direct reply to you.

In researching Mr. Husband's query, we contacted the DCMA Contract Integrity Center (CIC), which maintains a repository of information of past and present DoD contractors, for information on the performance history and status of Husband Manufacturing. The CIC found that neither Mr. Husband nor Husband Manufacturing is on the General Services Administration's *Excluded Parties List*, which identifies individuals and companies currently ineligible to compete for Federal contracts. As such, it does not appear that Husband Manufacturing has been formally barred or suspended from doing business with the Federal Government.

Looking into the matter further, (b)(6) of my staff contacted the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), the DoD procurement activity most likely to purchase the kinds of products offered by Husband Manufacturing. As with the DCMA Contract Integrity Center, DLA officials reported that Husband Manufacturing was not on any current or archival listing of firms excluded from competing for Federal or DoD contracts.

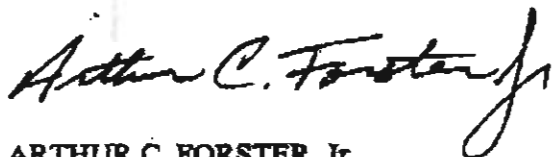
In the absence of more comprehensive information from Mr. Husband, we can only surmise that Mr. Husband's assertion about his company's exclusion from a contract-bidding competition stems from what may have been a local decision related to a local or installation-level contracting action. However, if Mr. Husband can provide additional information and a few details regarding the situation, including the contract solicitation he was responding to and the name of the procuring agency, we would be happy to investigate the matter further.

R 15279-06 (1)

2

Although unable to provide an immediately favorable reply at this time, we trust this information will be helpful to you in responding to your constituent as he seeks clarification on his standing to compete for Federal contracts.

Sincerely,



ARTHUR C. FORSTER, Jr.

Director

Congressional and Public Affairs

TOTAL P.04



DEFENSE INFORMATION SYSTEMS AGENCY

P.O. BOX 4512
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22204-4512

13 MAR 2006

Honorable Barack Obama
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Obama,

This letter is in reply to your inquiry dated 23 February 2006, regarding the United States Air Force.

DISA-CONUS has no plans to relocate any of its current employees from their current facilities on Scott Air Force Base to St. Louis, MO. DISA-CONUS is planning to relocate approximately 50 employees to another facility, on Scott AFB, to improve the quality of life for the workforce. This relocation effort may be the source of misinformation and confusion, which led (b)(6) a DISA-CONUS government employee, to contact your office.

I hope this assists your constituent.

Sincerely,

v/r

CHARLES E. CROOM, JR.
Lieutenant General
Director

Copy to:
607 East Adams St.
Suite 1520
Springfield, IL 62701

R 04073-06

TOTAL P.003

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TRICARE
MANAGEMENT
ACTIVITY

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
HEALTH AFFAIRS
SKYLINE FIVE, SUITE 810, 5111 LEESBURG PIKE
FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA 22041-3206

JUL 17 2006

The Honorable Barack Obama
United States Senate
607 East Adams Street, Suite 1520
Springfield, IL 62701

Dear Senator Obama:

Thank you for your inquiry, received in my office on June 2, on behalf of Petty Officer Second Class (PO2) (b)(6) USNR regarding TRICARE coverage for his wife, (b)(6) from when (b)(6) was an active duty service member.

As stated in my earlier letter of June 23, in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 and the Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996, we cannot provide (b)(6) private medical information to you or (b)(6) without a signed Authorization for Disclosure of Medical or Dental Information form—commonly known as the HIPAA release form. While you did forward a privacy release, the Department is required to use an updated form as mandated by HIPAA. For your convenience, I have enclosed another copy of the updated form. The HIPAA release form is also available online at www.tricare.osd.mil/planning/congress. For all future inquiries, please have your constituents sign a copy of the HIPAA release form for submission with questions regarding TRICARE. Nevertheless, we are pleased to inform you that we have written separate replies to (b)(6) informing him of the need for a HIPAA release, and to (b)(6) addressing the issues surrounding her case. In addition, my staff contacted the (b)(6) to provide them with the necessary information.

Please address any future inquiries to the TRICARE Management Activity to the address indicated above. Thank you for your interest in the Military Health System and its beneficiaries.

Sincerely,

Elder Granger
Major General, MC, USA
Deputy Director

Enclosure:
As stated

R
OSD 09599-06
①



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
HEALTH AFFAIRS

SKYLINE FIVE, SUITE 610, 3111 LEESBURG PIKE
FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA 22041-3206

TRICARE
MANAGEMENT
ACTIVITY

AUG 28 2006

The Honorable Barack Obama
United States Senate
607 East Adams Street
Suite 1520
Springfield, IL 62701

Dear Senator Obama:

Thank you for your inquiry of July 6 on behalf of (b)(6)
USMC (Ret), regarding the availability of TRICARE Prime to military retirees in Illinois.

As stated in my previous letter of July 27, in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 and the Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996, we cannot provide you a beneficiary's private medical information without a signed Authorization for Disclosure of Medical or Dental Information form—commonly known as the HIPAA release form. While you did forward a signed privacy release, the Department is required to use an updated form as mandated by HIPAA protocols. For your convenience, I have enclosed another copy of the updated form. The HIPAA release form is also available on-line at www.tricare.osd.mil/planning/congress.

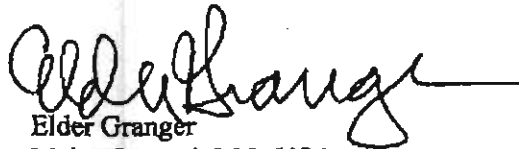
For all future inquiries, please have your constituents sign a copy of the HIPAA release form for submission with questions regarding TRICARE. In the absence of a HIPAA release form, we are pleased to inform you that we have written a separate reply directly to (b)(6) addressing the issues surrounding his case. However, in so far as the inquiry involves matters of program policy as opposed to private medical information, we are permitted to respond directly to you.

TRICARE Prime is the Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) option under TRICARE, authorized by 10 U.S.C. 1097-1099. An HMO like option is designed to provide a managed care option. In order to justify the requirement to develop a provider network, there must be a sufficient concentration of beneficiaries. As a result, TRICARE Prime is available only in Prime Service Areas (PSAs) comprising areas surrounding a military treatment facility (MTF); areas surrounding former Base Realignment and Closure sites; and certain zip code clusters that have been designated as PSAs because there are dense concentrations of TRICARE Prime-eligible beneficiaries and because the contractor can guarantee an adequate network of both primary care and specialty

R OSD 11696-06 (2)

Please address any future inquiries to the TRICARE Management Activity at the address indicated above. Thank you for your interest in the Military Health System and its beneficiaries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elder Granger", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Elder Granger
Major General, MC, USA
Deputy Director

Enclosures:
As stated

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